

A Report on Gender-Based Violence Government Conceptualizations Across Canada: Commonalities and Differences

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I. Executive Summary

Introduction: This report identifies and analyzes government conceptualizations and discourses on gender-based violence (GBV) across Canada using official documents. More specifically, the report provides a detailed analysis of gender-based violence strategies, policies, and actions across Canada, highlighting key patterns, commonalities, and provincial / territorial differences. We explore how post-pandemic GBV has been framed, defined, and acted upon by provincial and territorial governments. We consider this across-Canada scan a very important first step, as to consider any form of advocacy or lobbying for change, it is important to understand where we stand on framing the GBV problem and on taking protective measures thereupon by the state.

We group GBV into three categories: Interpersonal, Institutional, and Intersectional violence, referencing official government definitions, actions, and frameworks. It is worth noting that all provinces and territories do not use these exact terms directly in their official documents, rather our interpretation leads to categorization of the government documents using these terms. We have included government documents published between 2020 and 2024, namely *bilateral agreements* between the federal and provincial or territorial governments, *action plans*, *reports*, and *evaluation frameworks*.

Methodology: The above identified sources reflect collaborative efforts between the different levels of governments to address GBV. In this report we have only utilized documents issued/published by government bodies. *Bilateral agreements* between the federal government and provinces or territories establish funding and outline responsibilities to implement the GBV-NAP. For the Bilateral Agreements, we have only included the first-year action plan in this analysis. These agreements serve as foundational frameworks for provincial initiatives. All provinces have signed bilateral agreements with the federal government related to GBV. Although Quebec supports the overall objectives of the GBV-NAP, it does not adhere to it, because it intends to retain its full responsibility in this area. Moreover, Alberta's detailed context and action plan of this agreement is not available in the official bilateral agreement document.

Provincial action plans are detailed strategies, such as British Columbia's "SAFE AND SUPPORTED" (2023). These documents address *region-specific issues* through preventative measures, support services, and public awareness campaigns. *Evaluation reports, frameworks*

and annual updates, like Nova Scotia's evaluation summary (2023) and Newfoundland and Labrador's Advisory Council reports, assess the progress of initiatives and guide future improvements. Together, these documents represent a comprehensive and evolving effort to address gender-based violence across Canada.

We have broadly categorized and summarized our findings on provincial/territorial government conceptualizations of GBV into three sections, *Interpersonal, Institutional and Intersectional*, along with providing the key differences and similarities across provinces in definitions, language and key actions. We have included all the text that explicitly or implicitly falls under these three categories. In these categories, we have included the forms of Interpersonal/ Institutional/ Intersectional Violence that provinces and territories acknowledge and the actions they take to combat these forms of GBV, whether directly or by inference.

Findings: (I) We understand **interpersonal GBV** as GBV by one person or a group that is directed against another individual or a member of a group on the basis of their perceived gender, or gender identity and expression. While the roots of such violence are systemic, it is important to understand the diverse forms that provincial and territorial governments find more frequent or urgent to solve in their respective jurisdictions and, as a result, they name them and prioritize action against them. In particular, provinces define and prioritize various forms of interpersonal violence differently based on their regional contexts. GBV encompasses a range of forms, with common types including intimate partner violence (IPV), sexual violence (such as assault and exploitation), and family or domestic violence.

These forms of violence are recognized in most regions, though terminology varies; for instance, some jurisdictions use "family violence" while others prefer "domestic violence." Human trafficking is also a significant concern in several provinces. Other types of GBV, such as cyber violence, financial abuse, and emotional or psychological violence, are less commonly addressed but are acknowledged in certain areas. Less frequently mentioned forms include female genital mutilation/cutting, honor-based violence, femicide, reproductive coercion, coercive control, workplace violence, senior abuse, and dating violence. The recognition and terminology of these forms of GBV reflect regional priorities and the specific needs of affected communities. Notably, in its bilateral agreement on GBV-NAP, Saskatchewan mentions and prioritizes Interpersonal

violence and abuse. Nova Scotia claims to be the first province to pass legislation declaring intimate partner violence an epidemic.

Each province and territory in Canada have appointed specific departments to address gender-based violence and promote gender equality. The designated authority for strategy implementation interestingly varies across Canada. For example, for British Columbia, it is the Ministry of Finance; Alberta's designated authority focuses on improving gender equality through its Ministry of Arts, Culture and Status of Women; and Ontario's designated authority is the Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services which works to enhance outcomes for women and vulnerable populations.

(II) We understand **intersectional GBV** as forms of violence based on perceived gender, gender identity and gender expressions that are recognizably cross-secting with other forms of social inequalities, such as social class, age, religion, race, ethnicity, language, sexual orientation and so forth. Such intersections make the diverse GBV consequences more serious, lasting and challenging to address. This is why language and discourse that reveals government conceptualizations of how GBV unfolds are key to addressing it. All provinces and territories in Canada have intersectional elements present in their documents and resources related to gender-based violence. Whether through direct acknowledgment or through policies that consider multiple forms of discrimination, each jurisdiction demonstrates a commitment to addressing the complex and intersecting factors that contribute to GBV.

British Columbia acknowledges the role of intersectional identities directly while PEI names different groups of vulnerable people without naming it intersectional. However, PEI, in its sexual violence prevention strategy, claims that it will apply an intersectional approach to the design and delivery of actions. Yukon in its bilateral agreement claims to advance the integration of intersectional considerations through taking initiatives to better address the intersectional needs of a diverse population. While not explicitly using the terminology of intersectionality, Nunavut acknowledges the intensified sufferings of specific groups of marginalized people. Quebec states that intersections between different systems of discrimination place some women in heightened vulnerability. As for Manitoba, the data collection framework uses an intersectional feminist lens to identify gaps and inform strategies. A fundamental element of this strategy is centering the

perspectives and Indigenous knowledge held by Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people directly affected by violence, with a focus on families of MMIWG and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

Other provinces take action or recognize intersectionality indirectly, addressing and acknowledging the vulnerability of different groups. All provinces therefore have intersectional elements present in their documents and resources. Recognizing Persons/People with Disabilities (PWD) as a vulnerable group is essential for providing the targeted support and services needed to help them access safety and recovery. Seven provinces and territories acknowledge that persons/people with disabilities (PWD) are particularly vulnerable to gender-based violence (GBV). These include British Columbia, Alberta, PEI, Newfoundland and Labrador Nova Scotia, Northwest Territories, and Quebec. British Columbia, PEI, Quebec acknowledge/mention newcomers/ immigrants/ refugees in their government documents, while Nova Scotia, Ontario, Newfoundland and Labrador mention and have some kind of action targeting/including directly these groups. Newfoundland and Labrador uses the term “non-status and temporary status migrants,” along with immigrants and newcomers, a term which has not been used in any other province. Only four provinces mention/ take actions for people of color, racialized, or black. Alberta only mentions Black people. PEI refers to Black and People of Color using the term BIPOC and addresses them in one of its proposed actions as well. Newfoundland and Labrador mentions Black and racialized women while Nova Scotia mentions Black and African Nova Scotian and other people of color separately. Nova Scotia also reports taking action for African NS people. All 13 provinces and territories in Canada have taken some form of action or acknowledgment of Indigenous peoples in the context of gender-based violence (GBV). This includes developing action plans, implementing strategies, and collaborating with Indigenous communities to address the unique challenges faced by Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ individuals.

Most of the provinces have mentioned or taken actions for 2SLGBTQI+ individuals in particular. While Saskatchewan and Ontario have not explicitly focused on 2SLGBTQI+ and gender-diverse individuals in their bilateral agreements, other provinces and territories have taken significant steps to address the unique needs of these communities in the context of gender-based violence. Provinces such as BC, NS, NL, NWT, Yukon and Nunavut have taken more direct actions in this

regard. More specifically, provinces and territories have implemented unique initiatives to address intersectional gender-based violence (GBV) through community-led and culturally sensitive approaches. British Columbia introduced the *Anti-Racism Data Act* to identify and address systemic racism, while launching an anti-hate community support fund to assist 2SLGBTQIA+ organizations with security and property repairs. Newfoundland and Labrador developed educational resources on sexual exploitation, translated into multiple languages, and invested in Planned Parenthood's 2SLGBTQIA+ *Warm Line* to expand peer support services. Prince Edward Island piloted a grant fund for community projects focusing on sexual violence response and prevention, prioritizing Black, Indigenous, people of color, women, transgender, and gender-diverse individuals. Nova Scotia enhanced community-based GBV services targeting African Nova Scotians, children, youth, men, boys, and Indigenous women and girls, addressing systemic barriers for marginalized groups. The Northwest Territories focused on healing residential school GBV survivors, developed GBV terminology in Indigenous languages, and expanded emergency family violence shelter access. Yukon implemented media literacy programs to counteract harmful misinformation perpetuating GBV against 2SLGBTQIA+ and racialized groups and supported violence prevention initiatives for Aboriginal women. Nunavut established safe housing initiatives for Inuit and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals fleeing violence, launched a 2SLGBTQIA+ awareness campaign, and developed the *Reclaiming the Whole Woman* program to provide traditional knowledge exchange. Ontario enhanced Indigenous-led approaches and culturally responsive services for newcomers and diverse communities, including stabilized funding for First Nations police services and support for Indigenous women's economic forums. Manitoba initiated the *Clan Mothers Healing Village* for culturally relevant solutions, a skilled labor training initiative for Indigenous people, and an intersectional data collection framework to inform GBV strategies. These initiatives reflect a commitment to addressing GBV through culturally informed, community-led approaches that cater to the unique needs of diverse communities.

(III) Last but not least our discourse analysis delves into finding out the extent to which provincial and territorial governments recognize the **institutional and /or systemic roots** of GBV. We consider systemic GBV the form that is perpetrated against individuals or groups because of institutionally inadequate protections or gaps or omissions in law/ policy/ implementation that leaves victims vulnerable and exposed. Across Canada, all provinces and territories, except Alberta, have incorporated training components into their gender-based violence (GBV) action

plans which address the **institutional** roots of GBV. These initiatives encompass, for instance, micro-credential programs for shelter sector workers in Manitoba, culturally responsive training for First Nations justice personnel in British Columbia, and trauma-informed education for justice professionals in Prince Edward Island. Additionally, Nova Scotia is implementing a *Domestic Violence Training Framework*, while Ontario focuses on culturally sensitive and trauma-informed services for professionals across sectors. These efforts aim to build capacity, improve service delivery, and ensure a coordinated response to GBV.

While most provinces have outlined actions under the "*Responsive Justice System*" pillar of the GBV-NAP, British Columbia and Manitoba do not have any action under this pillar for the first year. However, BC and Manitoba have taken distinct approaches in justice services. Moreover, Quebec's plan does not explicitly align with the "*Responsive Justice System*" pillar as outlined in the NAP to End GBV, but it has adopted one action as "responsive justice system." Furthermore, almost all the provinces have some sort of action for housing/transition housing/second stage housing/residential facilities. Yukon and Saskatchewan have not adopted any action in that direction.

British Columbia places the highest emphasis on their comprehensive law/policy change and implementation of these new/enhanced laws/policies. The idea behind such laws/policies has been broader systemic change that integrates legal reforms, policy adjustments, and proactive programs addressing various aspects of GBV in a comprehensive manner. BC introduced the Intimate Images Protection Act (2023), a landmark law designed to protect individuals from non-consensual sharing of intimate images. The province also stands out for its focus on environmental assessments to integrate GBV-related prevention into industrial projects, ensuring a broader scope for GBV mitigation. Furthermore, WorkSafe BC's updated regulations mandating a legal obligation for employers to address violence in the workplace, marking a proactive step in workplace safety for survivors of GBV. Lastly, BC's Employment Standards Act offers survivors of domestic or sexual violence up to five days of paid leave and additional unpaid leave, providing essential support to those affected by GBV in the workplace. BC's policy initiatives cover workplace regulations, education, family law, anti-racism, and even environmental impacts, making it the province with the most extensive legal and policy-focused approach to combating GBV.

For environment and climate change related actions, only 2 provinces have mentioned taking actions. British Columbia has research potential GBV-related prevention and mitigation initiatives that can be applied to industrial projects that undergo environmental assessment by the B.C. Environmental Assessment Office (EAO). PEI has planned developing protocols and actions for climate change impacts related to GBV.

In terms of Economic actions, 4 provinces have some actions. For example, Ontario has funding for Women's Economic Security increase under which there is funding to help stabilize the Women's Economic Security program (WESP) and Investing in Women's Futures (IWF) program to support women who have experienced GBV and/or economic insecurity to rebuild their lives, enhance wellness, gain skills, and secure better jobs to address root causes of GBV (e.g., financial insecurity). Saskatchewan has an Annual Grant Fund that supports community initiatives that target prevention and women in the economy. NL and PEI have some actions as well.

Lastly, New Brunswick is expanding delivery of comprehensive healthy relationship education programming in schools. BC has the *Violence is Preventable* program (VIP) that is a free, confidential, school-based program for students K-12. Ontario will have mandatory learning in every grade about building healthy relationships, personal safety and injury prevention. Quebec will support initiatives aimed at raising awareness of sexual violence among secondary school students. Moreover, PEI, NL and NWT also have some educational institution related actions.

II. Theoretical and Methodological Framework

The present document is a map of providing a comprehensive picture of the federal / provincial / territorial landscape of GBV conceptualizations. The National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence ([Link](#)), consisting of five pillars of action and relying on intergovernmental collaboration (federal with provincial and territorial governments) to bring GBV to an end, is a relatively new plan – introduced only in November 2022 by the federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for the status of women in Canada. It is a 10-year plan and builds on earlier initiatives, such as the earlier federal GBV Strategy that was launched in 2017 ([Link](#)). The five pillars of this plan, serving as a foundation for preventing and addressing GBV, consist of: 1. Support for Victims, Survivors and their Families; 2. Prevention; 3. Responsive Justice System; 4. Implementing Indigenous – led Approaches; 5. Social Infrastructure and Enabling Environment.

The federal government has entered into bilateral agreements with the 13 provinces and territories of Canada about implementing the plan. *Bilateral Agreements* between the federal government and provinces or territories establish funding and outline responsibilities to implement the GBV-NAP. For the Bilateral Agreements, we have only included the first-year action plan in this analysis. These agreements serve as foundational frameworks for provincial initiatives. All provinces have signed bilateral agreements with the federal government related to GBV. Although Quebec supports the overall objectives of the GBV-NAP, it does not adhere to it, because it intends to retain its full responsibility in this area. Moreover, Alberta’s detailed context and action plan of this agreement is not available in the official bilateral agreement document.

Provincial Action Plans are detailed strategies, such as British Columbia’s “SAFE AND SUPPORTED” (2023). These documents address *region-specific issues* through preventative measures, support services, and public awareness campaigns. *Evaluation Reports, Frameworks and Annual Updates*, like Nova Scotia’s evaluation summary (2023) and Newfoundland and Labrador’s Advisory Council reports, assess the progress of initiatives and guide future improvements. Together, these documents represent a comprehensive and evolving effort to address gender-based violence across Canada.

There is a plethora of documents and reports on provincial and territorial websites that are related to GBV. For this qualitative discourse analysis, we have selected the most recent ones (from 2020 to 2024), mostly related to the period after the federal GBV-NAP as our “data base,” in an effort to understand how provincial and territorial governments in Canada conceptualize and name GBV in its various forms. We believe that such an understanding is an important first step in taking action to combat/eradicate GBV. Although this scan of the GBV picture across Canada includes detail on particular forms that are identified and named in some provinces (and not in others), we have used 3 broad concepts, as identified in GBV literature (e.g. Freedman, Sahraoui, Tastsoglou 2022; Tastsoglou 2023), to group our findings: interpersonal, institutional / structural and intersectional.

- I) **Interpersonal violence:** GBV by one person or a group that is directed against another person as an individual or a member of a group on the basis of their perceived gender, or gender identity and expression.

II) **Institutional violence:** The form that is perpetrated to individuals or groups because of inadequate protections or gaps or omissions in law/ policy/ implementation that leaves victims vulnerable and exposed.

III) **Intersectional violence:** Forms of violence based on perceived gender, gender identity and gender expressions that are cross-cutting with other forms of social inequalities, such as social class, age, religion, race, ethnicity, language, sexual orientation and so forth.

The intent for the selection of the categories of interpersonal and institutional / structural has been to connect serious yet superficial forms of GBV with their systemic roots. Our driving question here has been if and how provinces and territories make this connection in their official documents and proclamations. The connection is important because, admittedly, the eradication of surface phenomena has to start from the roots of such phenomena, or addressing harmful human action has to start from identifying its enabling factors and environments. At the same time, we want to preserve the separation of structural violence from interpersonal one and avoid to collapse the two into an expanded definition of GBV that includes causes and consequences. If we expand the category GBV to include institutions and structures, then it loses much of its force, as it becomes too broad. Finally, understanding and identifying the specific forms of intersectional GBV is also very important, as research has shown (e.g., Sisic et al. 2024) that the forms, impact and consequences of GBV are qualitatively different for various groups of women and gender-diverse individuals.

Below is the list of the official documents by province/territory on which this report is based.

Document List by Province/Territory

Province	Document Titles	Type
BC	1. Canada–British Columbia transfer payment agreement on the implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, (8th November 2023).	1. Bilateral Agreement 2. Action Plan

2. SAFE AND SUPPORTED British Columbia’s Gender-Based Violence Action Plan (Dec 10, 2023)

MB	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Canada–Manitoba transfer payment agreement on the implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence (June 2023). 2. MANITOBA’S FRAMEWORK: Addressing Gender-Based Violence DECEMBER 4, 2020. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bilateral Agreement 2. Framework
AB	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Canada–Alberta transfer payment agreement on the implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence (July, 2023). 2. Gender Based Violence. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bilateral Agreement 2. Govt. Website
QC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Counteract Sexual Violence and Domestic Violence, and to Rebuild Trust INTEGRATED GOVERNMENT STRATEGY 2022-2027 (Dec 2021). 2. Canada–Québec agreement to address gender-based violence - Canada.ca (Oct 2023). 3. Violence against women Gouvernement du Québec. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Govt. Strategy 2. Bilateral Agreement 3. Govt. Website
SK	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Canada–Saskatchewan transfer payment agreement on the implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence, June 2023. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bilateral Agreement
ON	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Canada–Ontario transfer payment agreement on the implementation of the national action plan to end gender-based violence, September 2023. 2. Ontario-STANDS: Standing Together Against gender-based violence Now through Decisive actions, prevention, empowerment and supports, December 2023. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bilateral Agreement 2. Action Plan
NS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Standing Together to Prevent Domestic Violence - Government of Nova Scotia, Canada. 2. standing-together-evaluation-summary-report.pdf. 3. “Making CHANGES”. 4. Canada–Nova Scotia transfer payment agreement on the implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence...(Sep,2023). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Action Plan Brief 2. Evaluation Report 3. Book 4. Bilateral Agreement
NB	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Canada-New Brunswick Transfer Payment agreement on the implementation of the Nap to End GBV-November, 2023. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bilateral Agreement
PEI	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Canada–Prince Edward Island transfer payment agreement on the implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, (July, 2023). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bilateral Agreement 2. Strategy

	2. Creating a culture of care: A Strategy for Preventing and Responding to Adult Sexual Violence in Prince Edward Island, Feb 2023.	
NL	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Transfer Payment agreement on the implementation of the Nap to End GBV-August, 2023. 2. Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women-Annual Report-2023. 3. Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women-Annual Report-2024. 4. 2023-2024 Office of WGE Annual Report. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bilateral Agreement 2. Annual Report 3. Annual Report 4. Annual Report
NWT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Canada-Northwest Territories Transfer Payment agreement on the implementation of the Nap to End GBV-July, 2023. 2. "RECLAIMING THE CAPABLE PERSON: WE ARE ALL CAPABLE PERSONS WHEN WE HAVE COMMUNITY, October 2023". 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bilateral Agreement 2. Strategic Framework
YT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Canada – Yukon transfer payment agreement on the implementation of the National Action Plan to end Gender-Based Violence - Canada.ca, July 2023. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bilateral Agreement
NU	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Canada–Nunavut transfer payment agreement on the implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, July, 2023. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bilateral Agreement

III. Interpersonal Violence Across Provinces and Territories

1. Conceptualizations of GBV

British Columbia

The mandate of the Government of British Columbia’s Ministry of Finance includes developing an action plan to end gender-based violence in British Columbia as mentioned in the ***Bilateral Agreement between the Federal Government and the Government of British Columbia***. This agreement talks about implementation of actions against various instances of interpersonal violence such as Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), online harassment, harassment at public places, sexual assault, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, domestic violence, human trafficking. Under the pillar of ***Prevention***, the “***Caring Dads***” group is a 17- week group program designed to support

fathers in developing child-centred and abuse free relationships with their children and their children's mother; engage perpetrators in therapeutic intervention strategies to provide education and increase awareness of the effects of domestic violence; as well as help them develop skill building strategies (*Bilateral Agreement*, [Link](#)).

“*Safe and Supported*” is a plan that talks about IPV, DV, sexual assault, exploitation, workplace violence, and human trafficking. It proposes to create appropriate, culturally safe and trauma-informed sexual assault forensic services, and to take new initiatives to end sexualized violence at postsecondary institutions. Stable new funding is supporting expanded sexual assault services in communities across B.C. boosting life-saving programs, including setting up two new 24/7 crisis lines, new sexual assault centres (*Action Plan*, [Link](#)).

Alberta

The Government website’s Gender-based violence prevention section refers to interpersonal violence such as family violence, sexual violence, sexual assault, exploitation, human trafficking, violence against 2SLGBTQIA+, female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C). Gender-based violence can be both physical and non-physical and pertains to a range of behaviors, including those that are: (i) **not necessarily criminal** – coercion, threats, unwanted sexual attention while in public, economic and coercive control, online harassment; and (ii) **criminal acts** – threats, harassment, physical and sexual assault. The province emphasizes programs that includes men and boys in *prevention* (*Resources*, [Link](#)). The mandate of the Government of Alberta’s Ministry of Arts, Culture and Status of Women is to improve Albertans’ quality of life through support of cultural development, historical preservation and increased gender equality (*Bilateral Agreement*, [Link](#)).

Manitoba

The mandate of the Government of Manitoba’s Minister responsible for Gender Equity is to support the Gender Equity Manitoba Secretariat in its work to advance gender equity and ensure a safe and equitable Manitoba for people of all genders, by addressing barriers and eliminating gender-based violence as mentioned in the *Bilateral Agreement*. Manitoba identifies Domestic Violence/Family Violence-IPV, homicide, honor-based violence, financial, emotional, physical

and sexual violence, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment human trafficking, technology-based violence in its documents.

Operational funding to support “*Tina’s Safe Haven*” (TSH) under pillar 1. TSH provides support and services for youth that are experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, homelessness, sexual exploitation, family conflict, placement breakdown, or mental health crises (*Bilateral Agreement*, [Link](#)).

Family violence, including "honour"-based violence, cuts across all cultures, nationalities, faith groups and communities. Family violence is often referred to as "domestic violence" or "domestic abuse." However, the term "family violence" is used on this site of “Women and Gender Equity” Manitoba. Common types of abuse included here are: Physical (Unwanted physical contact), Sexual (Unwanted sexual contact), Psychological/Emotional, Financial, Honour Based Violence (*Resources*, [Link](#)).

Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan acknowledges various types and forms of GBV such as, IPV, FV, DV, Sexual Harassment etc. According to the *Bilateral Agreement*, the priorities of the Government of Saskatchewan’s Status of Women Office are to advance women in the economy, to advance their leadership roles and to end interpersonal violence and abuse in Saskatchewan in order to support women to live safe, healthy and prosperous lives. Notably, in its bilateral agreement on GBV-NAP, Saskatchewan mentions and prioritizes *Interpersonal violence and abuse*. It mentions the pillars of Saskatchewan Interministerial Committee on Interpersonal Violence and Abuse (ICIVA) that guide a provincial response targeting prevention, intervention, and accountability to address all forms of interpersonal violence and abuse in Saskatchewan. The first year’s action plan mentions many actions. Among them, the pillar *Support for victims, survivors and their families* states that expertise will be sought to support integrated case management approaches to support families experiencing family violence. This will provide support to both victims and perpetrators. Also, expertise will be sought to enhance knowledge around the impacts of Adverse Childhood Experiences and the connection with intimate partner violence. Training sessions will be provided that allow people to learn what to do when their friend, family member, client, or parishioner is in a domestic violence situation and needs help. Moreover, there is a plan to expand support services

to women and youth exiting human trafficking and sexual exploitation and a plan to extend supports for Survivors Exiting Interpersonal Violence. Finally, Enhanced Early Intervention Supports will be available for Families at Higher Risk for Violence (*Bilateral Agreement*, [Link](#)).

Prince Edward Island

Sexual Violence, especially adult sexual violence, has received most attention through the specific strategy aligned with the bilateral agreement. The term “GBV” appears in the action plan in the bilateral strategy however. The mandate of the Government of Prince Edward Island’s Interministerial Women’s Secretariat is to provide assistance to the provincial government to promote the legal, health, social and economic equality of women and to work towards coordinating family violence prevention efforts in the province. Overall, the mandate prioritizes prevention and response to Adult Sexual Violence. Moreover, a PEI Governmental Task Force on a Coordinated Response to Adult Sexual Violence was established with a mandate to strengthen PEI’s approach to preventing and responding to adult sexual violence. As per the strategy, sexual violence can be both physical and psychological in nature and includes sexual assault, rape, sexual coercion and sexual harassment. The coordinated response also aims to increase adult clinical services capacity for assessment and treatment of a spectrum of sexual offenders for a range of needs, including expanding treatment and support options and youth-focused interventions to better support families at risk of experiencing victimization and perpetration of sexual violence and improve access to assessment and treatment (*Strategy*, [Link](#)). PEI also addresses Child Sexual Abuse (*Bilateral Agreement*, [Link](#)).

Newfoundland and Labrador

The mandate of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador’s Office of Women and Gender Equality is primarily to advance the social, economic, cultural, and legal status of women in the province, and to work toward equality among people of all genders in Newfoundland and Labrador. While the province prioritizes IPV the most, it also focuses on sexual exploitation of youth, technology-facilitated GBV, domestic violence, workplace violence. The province foregrounds prevention targeting marginalized and high-risk people, specifically youth Sexual exploitation, technology-led violence. Action under Pillar 1 - *Support for victims, survivors and their families* includes “Expanding the Empowering Ourselves: Exploring Intimate Partner Abuse

program.” This 8-week, session-based program is intended for women who have recently experienced or are currently experiencing abuse. Each session explores conversations about GBV, how it impacts individuals, what resources are available and how to access them, as well as an opportunity to build community. This program will be expanded to other areas of the province outside of St. John’s where Intimate Partner Violence Intervention Courts (IPVICs) are located (Stephenville and Grand Falls Windsor) and their catchment areas (*Bilateral Agreement*, [Link](#)).

The provincial annual report for 2023-2024 prioritizes, along with other forms, human trafficking. The Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women (PACSW) has identified gender-based violence as a continued critical priority area for research and analysis. Accessible and equitable supports for survivors of domestic and sexual violence; advocating for more responsive legal and justice systems through sexual assault education and training in all entry points in the criminal justice field violence and school safety; curriculum on consent; and child and youth exploitation are identified as focus areas important to public interest in this annual report (*Report*, [Link](#)).

New Brunswick

The mandate of the Government of New Brunswick’s Department of Women’s Equality is to promote gender equality and reduce systemic discrimination; to provide advice and support on women's issues to the Minister responsible for Women's Equality as well as to government departments; and to coordinate the implementation of the government's actions and initiatives in the areas of women's personal, economic and social security. The *Bilateral Agreement* mentions: intimate partner violence, domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual violence, femicide, cyber violence, child sexual harm and interestingly, dating violence. (*Bilateral Agreement*, [Link](#)).

Nova Scotia

“*Standing Together*” is the Government of Nova Scotia’s commitment to work with community organizations, groups and experts to build an action plan to “disrupt harmful cycles” of domestic violence. The goals of *Standing Together* are to- prevent domestic violence; to ensure that Nova Scotians are better prepared to develop healthy, violence-free relationships; to support victims of domestic violence with an improved system of programs that help them rebuild their lives and prevent violence in the future; to shift policies and interventions so support systems can better

respond to people's needs; to understand and promote gender equality; and to address barriers facing the most vulnerable Nova Scotians (*Action Plan*, [Link](#)).

“Making Changes” is a Nova Scotia resource, a 158-page book on understanding abuse, emergencies, safety planning, legal matters, dos and don'ts, and resources in Nova Scotia in the case of domestic violence/IPV/family violence which is called "Abuse" in this book. Abuse takes many forms. It can include someone hitting their partner, sexual abuse, controlling their partner's money or behaviour, controlling them emotionally, or coercive control. Coercive control is behaviour by a current or former partner or family member that makes someone fear they will be physically harmed, causes their mental health to decline, or causes the victim such distress that their day-to-day activities are negatively affected. Some forms of abuse are criminal offences in Canada, including: hitting, punching, strangling, or other physical assault, sexual assault, threats to harm or to kill, withholding food and medical treatment, taking another person's money through fraud or threats, creating fear by repeatedly following, communicating, or attempting to communicate with a person (stalking or criminal harassment), forcing someone to work (forced labour), forcing someone to work as a sex worker (human trafficking and sexual exploitation) (**Book**, [Link](#)). Another document is the *Evaluation Report* that summarizes *Standing Together*'s approach and describes key insights from the initiative's first four years. *Standing Together* is the government's commitment to work with community organizations, across government departments, and with academic partners to learn about how to disrupt cycles of domestic violence. Some prevention programs included in the evaluation report of making changes are: *GuysWork*; *Healthy Relationships*; *Men's, Women's, and All Genders Helplines* (*Evaluation Report*, [Link](#)).

The mandate of Nova Scotia's Minister responsible for the Advisory Council on the Status of Women is to remain focused on work that ensures women and their children are safe from gender-based violence. The Bilateral Agreement aligns with *Standing Together*. The province acknowledges GBV but prioritizes domestic violence, IPV and human trafficking. Actions such as, enhancing existing GBV prevention programs for men and boys through creating possibilities for men who abuse to participate in primary prevention efforts to address GBV, have been outlined under pillar 2 – *Prevention* (*Bilateral Agreement*, [Link](#)).

Northwest Territories

This agreement mentions IPV, FV, child abuse, sexual abuse and proposes care models: designing and implementing culturally relevant approaches, focusing on children and youth who have witnessed and/or have experienced GBV (including child abuse and sexual abuse) - Pillar 1- ***Support for victims, survivors, and their families***. The models will engage and support families and extended families earlier, in order to divert children from coming into care and to break the cycles of GBV. ***Prevention*** actions include- The *GBV Prevention Campaign for Youth*, which seeks to increase the reach and content of existing campaigns, particularly those targeting youth using a GBV lens. The *Men's Healing Programs Fund* supports the expansion of programs for men who are perpetrators of violence, aiming to prevent future GBV. In Pillar 3, ***Responsive justice system***, the Restorative Justice for GBV aims to explore the possibility of developing a restorative justice model for family violence and GBV in the NWT. Such a justice model would offer alternatives to traditional court proceedings and promote healing for survivors through community-based processes (***Bilateral Agreement***, [Link](#)).

“Reclaiming The Capable Person: We Are All Capable Persons When We Have Community” is a ***Strategic Framework*** for addressing family violence in the Northwest Territories. While all forms of violence are unacceptable, the aim of this strategic framework is to address family violence, specifically, and outline what the GNWT will do to address the causes and impacts of family violence. The GNWT acknowledges that other forms of violence and abuse, such as senior abuse, financial abuse, and gender-based violence, have factors that intersect at multiple levels with family violence. This ***Strategic Framework*** uses the term family violence instead of domestic violence or intimate partner violence as an acknowledgement that any form of violence that involves children, whether they experience it first-hand or witness it, has serious consequences. Family violence is a holistic term which encompasses survivors of abuse that are not always considered when discussing violence in a relationship, including children and older family members. While it is expected that the implementation of this strategy will address all forms of violence and abuse, these forms were not specified directly. The strategic framework defines family violence as: behavior, across the lifespan, from a person to a family member that is physically, sexually, psychologically, economically, or spiritually abusive, threatening, coercive, uses surveillance, or in any other way controls and dominates the family member. Recognition of

the role that gender can play for both survivors and perpetrators of family violence indicates that the strategic priorities outlined in this framework must be designed through the lens of gender and culture (*Strategic Framework, [Link](#)*).

Finally, the *Strategic Framework* is designed to encompass a fully holistic response to family violence in the NWT, and to align with the pillars featured in the *National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence*. Pillar 1- *Support for victims, survivors and their families* include potential actions such as: Developing specialized sexual assault support services, including service provision for legal/policing and criminal justice systems; counselling/mental health/family wellness supports; case management to support access to housing and income assistance; establishing a clear pathway for survivors fleeing violence to access financial resources to get themselves established; supporting the development of local family treatment spaces. Pillar 2- *Prevention* initiative includes actions such as creating a prevention campaign to bolster public awareness about the dangers of normalizing violence; education into what healthy relationships look like (*Strategic Framework, [Link](#)*).

Yukon

Yukon acknowledges IPV, FV, physical assault, sexual assault, homicide in this bilateral agreement. Yukon's Sexualized Assault Response Team (SART) provides a safe and confidential network of services that focus on the needs and choices of victims of sexualized assault and enhances the capacity of health, justice, and social services and systems to meet the needs of victims and their families under the pillar 1, “*Support for Victims, Survivors and Their Families*” (*Bilateral Agreement, [Link](#)*).

Nunavut

The mandate of the Government of Nunavut’s Minister of Family Services includes ensuring the safety and protection of children from abuse and harm and from the threat of abuse and harm; the well-being of families in Nunavut; and the safety and protection of women and children from violence and harm, with respect to the impacts of both historical and ongoing colonization and intergenerational trauma. Nunavut experiences a disproportionately high level of violence compared to the national average, marked by the highest domestic homicide rates in the country.

The *Bilateral Agreement* uses the term GBV mostly, also including actions mentioning and targeting IPV, FV, sexual assault, GBV against 2SLGBTQI+ and indigenous people specifically. However, there is no mention about PWD, racialized people, immigrant and refugees and any other particular vulnerable group. Actions under Pillar 1: *Support for Victims, Survivors, and Their Families* includes the Nunavut Victim Travel Support Program which provides financial assistance to victims and their families to attend court proceedings related to GBV. The *Nunavut Victims of Crime Emergency Fund* provides support toward essential expenses for survivors, and their families in the immediate aftermath of GBV and other violent crimes. In partnership with a Maori woman and Inuk elder, this action will include the creation of GBV support materials such as affirmation cards to support someone who has experienced gender-based violence, and a children's book series that provide information on consent (*Bilateral Agreement*, [Link](#)).

Ontario

Ontario's GBV-NAP implementation plan, outlined in the *Canada-Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement on the Implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence*, includes initiatives that span all pillars and priority areas under the GBV-NAP framework. Ontario will strengthen the GBV sector by building on and enhancing existing programs and services. This includes enriching Indigenous-led approaches that address GBV through healing; health and wellness programming; expanding programs that foster women's economic security; creating a more proactive system that drives innovative prevention practices; providing better supports for survivors of gender-based violence as well as their families; and ensuring reliable and timely access to culturally appropriate and accessible services (*Bilateral Agreement*, [Link](#)).

More specifically, pillar 1 - *Support for Victims, Survivors and Their Families* - includes increased funding to enhance existing programs, including emergency shelters; transitional and housing support; counseling, and child witness programs; that are designed to support women and their dependents who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing Gender-Based Violence (GBV); and increased funding to enhance existing programs designed to support victims and their families of GBV and other violence. Pillar 2- *Prevention* - increases funding to enhance existing violence prevention programs that aim to change the underlying conditions, attitudes and

behaviours that normalize, diminish, and tolerate gender-based violence (*Bilateral Agreement, [Link](#)*).

“Ontario-STANDS: Standing Together Against Gender-Based Violence Now through Decisive Actions, Prevention, Empowerment and Supports” is Ontario’s Action Plan that will bring one step closer to a system focused on preventing and ending cycles of intimate partner and family violence, while supporting crisis-response services that are in high demand, such as shelters and crisis help-lines. This document of the Ontario government defines GBV as: “Gender-based violence refers to harmful acts of physical, economic, sexual, emotional or psychological abuse based on someone’s gender and unequal power dynamics. It can take the form of human trafficking, sexual assault and exploitation, femicide, stalking, intimate partner violence and family violence”. Gender-based violence is a pervasive issue that affects people of all backgrounds, genders and ages. While some women are more at risk of gender-based violence than others (for example, Indigenous women), gender-based violence can happen to anyone regardless of culture, religion or economic status (*Action Plan, [Link](#)*).

Addressing the intersection of *intimate partner violence and the child welfare* system will also help **intervene and provide support** early. One of the goals of this plan is to increase safety and provide rehabilitative supports *for perpetrators* to hold them accountable and reduce recurrence which will expand *early intervention services for men and boys* to help prevent and mitigate the escalation of gender-based violence. The goal to improve transitions to recovery will increase access to housing, child care, mental health and addiction support services for *survivors* through \$1.5 million allocated under *Roadmap to Wellness*. **Preventative action** includes the promotion of economic security and independence *for survivors* as well as community planning and service integration to increase community safety and capacity to respond to intimate partner violence (*Action Plan, [Link](#)*).

Quebec

The main objectives of the *Integrated Strategy to Counteract Violence* are to counteract sexual and domestic violence, and to provide more sustained support that is better adapted to the realities of victims. However, the document also has activity on IPV (*Strategy, [Link](#)*). The website mentions that Violence against women can manifest in various ways. Most well-known are domestic

violence, sexual assault, sexual exploitation and femicide, but violence against women is also sexual harassment in the workplace, honour-based violence, genital mutilation and cutting, reproductive coercion, anti-feminist remarks and attacks, sexist jokes harassment on the streets, and online hostility (*Resources, [Link](#)*).

The mandate of the *Secrétariat à la condition féminine* includes promoting the social, civic, economic, and professional contributions of women to the development of Québec as well as women’s rights and true equality between women and men. Québec is actively working to address sexual and domestic violence, is already making significant investments to end violence against women and is implementing initiatives and services according to needs within its territory, including English-speaking communities; Although Quebec supports the overall objectives of the GBV-NAP, it cannot adhere to it because it intends to retain its full responsibility in this area on its territory (*Bilateral Agreement, [Link](#)*).

2. Similarities and Differences

This analysis below highlights similarities and differences in the conceptualization of interpersonal GBV across the Canadian provinces and territories.

A. Frequency of Occurrence

Table 1: Interpersonal GBV Across Provinces and Territories

Violence	Category	A B	B C	M B	N B	N L	NS	O N	PE I	QC	SK	NW T	NU	YT	Total
Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)	Most Common	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	12
Sexual Violence	Most Common	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	13
Family/ Domestic Violence	Most Common	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	13
Human Trafficking	Moderate	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	8
Cyber/ Tech-Facilitated Violence	Moderate	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	6
Physical Violence/Assault	Moderate	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	6
Economic/Financial Abuse/Coercive Control	Moderate	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-	5
Child/	Moderate	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	4

Youth Sexual Abuse/Violence															
Emotional/ Psychological Violence	Rare	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Femicide	Rare	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	-	3
Workplace Violence	Rare	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	3
Coercive Control	Rare	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Female Genital Mutilation	Rare	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	2
Honor-Based Violence	Rare	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	2
Dating Violence	Rare	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Senior Abuse	Rare	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	1
Reproductive Coercion	Rare	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	1

**Most Common: Mentioned by more than 10 Provinces;

Moderate: Mentioned by 4-9 Provinces;

Rare/Less Common: Mentioned by 1-3 Provinces**

Most Common Types of GBV Across Provinces and Territories

- **Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)** – Mentioned by almost all the provinces, i.e., British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Northwest territories, Ontario, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Yukon, Quebec, except for Alberta.
- **Sexual Violence (including Sexual Assault, Exploitation, Harassment):** Mentioned by all the 13 provinces in different ways, sometimes as broader Sexual Violence or as Sexual Abuse, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Exploitation. Sometimes it is segregated as Adult Sexual Violence and child Sexual violence, as in PEI’s case.
- **Family Violence/ Domestic Violence (DV):** All the provinces use FV/DV in their documents. Domestic Violence is mentioned in British Columbia, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Quebec, Ontario, Newfoundland and Labrador. On the other hand, PEI and Alberta use only the term Family Violence. Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan, Nunavut and Yukon use both the term Family Violence and Domestic Violence in their documents. Notably, Nova Scotia in one of its documents uses the term DV/IPV/FV under one umbrella term “Abuse” though the most frequent reference is to DV. Moreover,

Manitoba considers domestic violence and family violence as interchangeable. However, the term "family violence" is used on the site of “Women and Gender Equity” Manitoba. Similarly, Northwest territories and Saskatchewan use for the most part Family Violence.

Moderately Common Types

- **Human Trafficking:** Mentioned and prioritized in British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Newfoundland and Labrador.
- **Cyber Violence/Technology-Facilitated Violence/Online Harassment:** Newfoundland and Labrador and Manitoba mention Technology-facilitated/led violence, while New Brunswick mentions Cyber violence. Online harassment is mentioned by British Columbia, Alberta, while Quebec uses the terms of Online Hostility.
- **Financial Abuse/Violence/Economic Coercive Control:** Manitoba and Northwest territories use the terms Financial abuse/violence. On the other hand, Alberta mentions Economic and Coercive Control, while Ontario’s term is Economic abuse. However, Nova Scotia identifies Control of money under the broad term of Abuse.
- **Child/Youth Sexual Abuse/Violence:** Though other provinces mention violence against child/youth in the actions they take or how these groups are affected through Gender-Based Violence / Family Violence, New Brunswick speaks directly of Child Sexual Harm, and PEI of Child Sexual Abuse. Newfoundland and Labrador identifies explicitly Youth and or Child Sexual Exploitation. Northwest Territories use the term Child Abuse as a separate category.
- **Physical Violence/Assault:** Alberta, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Yukon use this terminology while Northwest Territories mentions this term under Family violence.

Rare/Less Common Types of GBV

- **Emotional/Psychological Violence:** Manitoba and Ontario mention this form explicitly. However, Northwest Territories say that family violence can take place psychologically. As per PEI Sexual violence can be psychological in nature.
- **Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C):** Mentioned in Alberta and Quebec.
- **Honor-Based Violence:** Mentioned by Manitoba and Quebec.
- **Femicide:** Mentioned in New Brunswick, Ontario, Quebec.

- **Reproductive Coercion:** Mentioned only in Quebec. However, PEI mentions Sexual coercion.
- **Coercive Control:** Nova Scotia mentions Coercive Control while Alberta identifies Economic and Coercive Control.
- **Workplace Violence:** British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador identify this form directly. Quebec identifies specifically Sexual violence in the Workplace.
- **Senior Abuse:** It is mentioned in Northwest Territories as a separate type. However, many provinces acknowledge violence against the elderly without naming it as a distinct category.
- **Dating violence:** New Brunswick only among the provinces and territories identifies Dating Violence.

B. Types of GBV according to Origin

Place Specific GBV

- I) **Workplace Violence:** Mentioned by British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador while Quebec mentions Sexual violence in the Workplace.
- II) **Family/Domestic Violence:** Domestic Violence is mentioned in British Columbia, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Quebec, Ontario, Newfoundland and Labrador. PEI and Alberta use the term Family Violence only. Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan, Nunavut and Yukon use both the term Family Violence and Domestic Violence. Nova Scotia in one of its documents uses the term DV/IPV/FV under one umbrella term “Abuse” but its most frequent use is that of the term DV.

Economic/Financial GBV

Manitoba and the NWT use Financial abuse/violence. While Alberta mentions Economic and Coercive Control, Ontario mentions Economic Abuse. Nova Scotia mentions “Control of money” under the broad term Abuse.

Culturally Originated GBV

- I) **Honor-based violence:** Manitoba and Quebec use this term.
- II) **Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C):** Alberta, Quebec use this term in their official documents.

C. Femicide

Mentioned in New Brunswick, Ontario, Quebec.

D. Emerging Forms of GBV

- I) **Technology Facilitated GBV¹**: Newfoundland and Labrador and Manitoba mention Technology-facilitated/led violence, while New Brunswick mentions Cyber violence. Online harassment has been mentioned by British Columbia and Alberta. However, Quebec uses the term Online Hostility.
- II) **Dating Violence**: New Brunswick
- III) **Reproductive Coercion**: Quebec uses this term, while PEI identifies Sexual Coercion.
- IV) **Coercive Control**: The term is used by Nova Scotia while **Economic and Coercive Control** is in use by Alberta.
- V) **Senior Abuse**: this term is explicitly identified by Northwest Territories.
- VI)

Table 2: Emerging Forms of Violence in Provincial / Territorial Official Documents

Province/ Territory	Coercive Control	Reproductive Coercion	Dating Violence	Senior Abuse	Technology Facilitated Violence	
BC	-	-	-	-	YES (Online Harassment)	
AB	YES (Economic & Coercive Control)	-	-	-	YES (Online Harassment)	
MB	-	-	-	-	YES (Technology Facilitated)	
SK	-	-	-	-	-	
QC	-	YES	-	-	YES (Online Hostility)	
ON	-	-	-	-	-	
NS	YES (Coercive Control)	-	-	-	-	
NL	-	-	-	-	YES (Technology -led Violence)	Action: Resources will also be developed

¹ The term “emerging” refers to use of these forms of violence in official government documents. These forms have been known to communities and advocates for a long time.

						by Newfoundland and Labrador to target technology-facilitated GBV
NB	-	-	YES	-	YES (Cyber Violence)	Action: GBV public awareness fund to help develop campaigns focused on Cyber violence
PEI	-	Yes (Sexual Coercion)	-	-	-	
YT	-	-	-	-	-	
NWT	-	-	-	YES	-	
NU	-	-	-	-	-	

Table 3: Responsible Departments across Provinces / Territories

Provinces and Territories	Responsible Departments
British Columbia	Ministry of Finance
Alberta	Ministry of Arts, Culture and Status of Women
Manitoba	Minister responsible for Gender Equity
Saskatchewan	Status of Women Office
Prince Edward Island	Interministerial Women's Secretariat
Newfoundland and Labrador	Office of Women and Gender Equality
New Brunswick	Department of Women's Equality
Nova Scotia	Minister responsible for the Advisory Council on the Status of Women
Northwest Territories	Minister for Women and Gender Equality
Yukon	Women and Gender Equity
Nunavut	Minister of Family Services
Ontario	Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services
Quebec	Secrétariat à la condition féminine

IV. Intersectional Violence Across Provinces and Territories

1. Conceptualizations of GBV

British Columbia

In its *Bilateral Agreement* BC acknowledges that people with intersectional identities face discrimination and inequity because of multiple factors like Indigeneity, race, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or income and that they are at greater risk of being targeted with violence. The *Bilateral Agreement* mentions that Canada and B.C. are facing a devastating crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. Also, it highlights that Gender-based violence disproportionately impacts other racialized women, newcomers and gender diverse people. Living in poverty or with a disability can further increase the risk of violence and leave people without the resources they need to be safe and supported. However, there was no direct action in the first-year action plan of the bilateral agreement of BC targeting these groups of people. In 2021, the province issued an action plan, *A Path Forward: Early Priorities and Strategies for B.C.*, in response to the sacred work of *Reclaiming Power and Place for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*. Developed in collaboration with Indigenous survivors, their families and other Indigenous partners, *A Path Forward* outlines key actions B.C. is taking in response to the National Inquiry's 231 Calls for Justice. To continue BC's commitment to end GBV, the Plan has action under the GBV-NAP pillar 4- ***Implementing Indigenous-led Approaches*** to continue supporting *The Path Forward Community Fund*. This Indigenous-led Community Fund created as part of BC's official response (*The Path Forward*) to the *National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls* and the *Calls for Justice*. The Fund supports community safety planning and capacity building to ensure the self-determination of Indigenous communities in addressing causes of GBV (*Bilateral Agreement*, [Link](#)).

The province is introducing new virtual counselling for survivors of intimate partner violence and sexual assault. These services will prioritize survivors who are Indigenous, racialized, 2SLGBTQIA+, living with a disability or who face other barriers in accessing supports when they need it most. Offering support virtually will also help reach survivors who live in rural and remote parts of B.C. There are three new provincial initiatives (i) for the First Nations Justice Council to

support culturally responsive training; (ii) for gender-based violence supports for Métis people through partnering with the Métis Nation BC; (iii) to make B.C. safer and more inclusive for transgender and gender diverse people (*Action Plan, [Link](#)*).

Passed in June 2022, B.C.'s *Anti-Racism Data Act* was created to help identify gaps and address systemic racism in provincial programs and services. BC tries to understand who is seeking help from community organizations and victim services, when and why survivors don't access support. This law focuses on four areas which include (i) continued collaboration with Indigenous Peoples; (ii) collaboration with an anti-racism committee; (iii) increasing transparency and accountability; and (iv) annual public data releases (*Action Plan, [Link](#)*).

The province plans to ensure that the Provincial Health Services Authority and Trans Care B.C. continue to provide gender-affirming care and address gaps experienced by transgender and non-binary people in health care settings. Through the new anti-hate community support fund, the province supports 2SLGBTQIA+ community organizations to enhance security measures and help with the costs of graffiti removal and repairs to damaged property when hate-motivated vandalism is inflicted on the community. The province also emphasizes to gather data and engage with transgender and gender diverse people on further measures we can take to reduce the unique forms of gender-based violence these communities experience and improve supports for survivors (*Action Plan, [Link](#)*).

Moreover, the province has initiated support for young people at a vulnerable time by launching new online resources for youth transitioning out of government care. Supporting children and youth who have experienced abuse is another initiative taken by the province with increased funding for the Sexual Abuse Intervention Program. *Safe and Supported: British Columbia's Gender-Based Violence Action Plan* responds directly to **action 3.8** in the "*Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People's Act*" action plan. This particular **action 3.8** requires the province to consult and cooperate with Indigenous Peoples to develop and implement community-driven activities to end violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people (*Action Plan, [Link](#)*).

Alberta

Alberta acknowledges the greater risk of women and girls, youth, black and racialized, indigenous, immigrant and refugees, person with disabilities, 2SLGBTQIA+, Northern and remote area people on the Government website (*Resources, [Link](#)*).

Saskatchewan

Under the pillar *Implementing Indigenous-led Approach* of the *National Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence*, grants will be available to support Indigenous communities and organizations to develop tools to support victims of interpersonal violence in their communities. Moreover, expertise will be sought to develop cultural and trauma-informed resources to help prevent Indigenous women and girls from going missing, being murdered, or becoming victims of GBV (*Bilateral Agreement, [Link](#)*).

Prince Edward Island

PEI supports populations at risk- BIPOC, immigrant/refugee women while recognizing the importance of responding to the *National inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls+ (MMIWG)*, supporting indigenous organizations to deliver GBV support and prioritizing taking action to address climate change and disaster impacts related to GBV (*Bilateral Agreement, [Link](#)*).

- The *Strategy for Preventing and Responding to Adult Sexual Violence* acknowledges that (*Strategy, [Link](#)*):
- youth, Indigenous people, Black people, People of Colour, 2SLGBTQIA+ people, people with disabilities, and people who use substances are disproportionately impacted by sexual violence in Canada.
- the risks and impacts of sexual violence on individuals, and their capacity to access care and services, are influenced by a complex interplay of identities which together shape individuals' positions within power structures in the particular social context. In response, an intersectional approach will be applied to the design and delivery of actions.

- Special consideration will be given to how data is collected from populations disproportionately impacted by sexual violence.
- Finally, it proposes that community organizations increase options for survivors. For example, exploring options to address the urgent needs of survivors through a crisis line support at the *PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre*; and piloting a grant fund for community projects that support sexual violence response and prevention efforts, with a focus on populations disproportionately affected by sexual violence (e.g., Black, Indigenous, people of color, women, transgender people, gender-diverse people) (**Strategy, [Link](#)**).

Newfoundland and Labrador

The province through the ***Bilateral Agreement of GBV-NAP*** acknowledges that GBV is not solely an issue facing women and girls. GBV disproportionately affects women and girls, however, certain populations also experience high levels of violence or are underserved when experiencing GBV. Indigenous women and girls, Black and racialized women, women living in Northern, rural, and remote communities, non-status and temporary status migrants, immigrants and refugees, Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, plus (2SLGBTQQIA+) individuals, people with disabilities, children and youth, and seniors, experience disproportionately high rates of GBV.

A notable pillar 2 -***Prevention*** action of ***the Bilateral Agreement is the Coalition against the Sexual Exploitation of the Youth (CASEY)***. Educational Resources will produce video content to increase awareness and provide educational information pertaining to sexual exploitation in Newfoundland & Labrador. To ensure the video is inclusive, the province is requesting translation of the video in 4 languages, one would be an Indigenous language, and the three others would reflect languages most common for the newcomer population to Newfoundland & Labrador, as well as adding closed captioning for the hard-of-hearing community.

Another action of the ***Bilateral Agreement of GBV-NAP*** under the pillar 2 – **Prevention** - is the investment in *Planned Parenthood's* successful 2SLGBTQQIA+ *Warm Line*, a peer-to-peer support service run by and for members of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community. This service provides

a safe space for 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals to talk through their problems and concerns, including experiences with GBV and other violence.

The third pillar of the *Bilateral Agreement* of GBV-NAP called ***Implementing Indigenous-led Approaches*** includes activities such as:

- Funding to support the objectives agreed upon by the *Reconciliation Council* within their terms of reference around ongoing collaborative work throughout Newfoundland and Labrador to address and prevent violence,
- Indigenous violence prevention grants program to preventing violence, including GBV, experienced by Indigenous women, children, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals in the province including GBV towards Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals,
- Through support to Indigenous-led organizations a systems navigator will be added to support gender-based violence prevention efforts.

Under Pillar 5 - ***Social Infrastructure and Enabling Environment***, increasing capacity and provincial reach of 2SLGBTQQIA+ outreach and service delivery has been planned in partnership with community partners, such as Women's Centres, Violence Prevention organizations, End Sexual Violence NL, Trans Support NL, Community Youth Networks, Seniors organizations, Disability organizations, Friendship Centres, newcomer organizations (***Bilateral Agreement, [Link](#)***).

As per the *Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women (PACSW) Report 2023 ([Link](#))* gender-based violence continues to be a prevalent human rights violation and a systemic barrier to equality. Feeling safe, living with security, and being free from violence are rights, not privileges. A safe place is one where individuals are not discriminated against and where their economic, social, and cultural rights are guaranteed. Yet many still experience high rates of violence, including women, Indigenous women, and girls, 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals, women living with a disability, and women living in rural areas. PACSW is the working member of *First Voice Urban Indigenous Coalition* with a focus on promoting MMIWG policy recommendations (***Report, [Link](#)***). Moreover, through the *Provincial Indigenous Women's Reconciliation Council*, the *Office of Women and Gender Equality* collaborated with Indigenous women's organizations and

provincial government departments to address the disproportionate amount of systemic violence experienced by Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people (**Report, [Link](#)**).

Nova Scotia

Standing Together to Prevent Domestic Violence (the provincial ***Action Plan***) has been working with care to ensure that NS actions and responses are thoughtful and inclusive of Nova Scotia's diversity as well as aligned with the *National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls* (MMIWG) Calls for Justice. ***Standing Together*** created formal and informal partnerships to advance our work. This included engaging an *International Expert Advisory Panel* as well as an *Interdepartmental Committee* representing key government departments engaged in the prevention of and response to gender-based violence. Through the *Office of the Status of Women*, ***Standing Together*** connected with national efforts to coordinate actions to *prevent* gender-based violence, including (i) the development of the first Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People, (ii) National Action Plan and (iii) the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence (**Action Plan, [Link](#)**).

The book ***Making Changes***, a Nova Scotia Status of Women guide to women experiencing intimate partner abuse, states that abuse can happen to anyone, but some people are more likely to be abused by their partners such as people with disabilities, Indigenous people, Black and African Nova Scotians, other people of colour, immigrants, people with less education, people with lower income, 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. It also gives details on how these groups are more vulnerable and what are the available resources for each group in Nova Scotia (**Book, [Link](#)**).

Standing Together paid particular attention to several priority populations and communities whose needs have not been served well by the existing system. In some cases, the system has created or exacerbated harm in these communities. Anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism emerged as a major theme and a barrier to meaningful and culturally appropriate prevention work. ***Standing Together*** identified three other priority groups for funded projects: women and girls; children and youth; and men and boys. It stated that women in rural areas and those with disabilities face additional barriers. The stories collected revealed an increased awareness of the complexity of domestic violence prevention; deeper understanding of what it will take to do culturally appropriate work; and opening space for previously unheard voices. Some *prevention* actions

include: community grants focused on children & youth, men & boys, and Indigenous women & girls; Systemic barriers (African NS, newcomer, disabilities, criminalized, LGBTQ2+) (*Evaluation Report*, [Link](#)).

The *Bilateral Agreement of GBV-NAP* names under *prevention* action scaling successful GBV prevention programs and services in culturally appropriate ways to reach African Nova Scotian communities, newcomers, 2SLGBTQIA+ communities and people living with disabilities.

Increasing support to organizations such as, Nova Scotia Native Women's Association; the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre; the Resilience Centre; and the Jane Paul Centre have been included in pillar 4- *Implementing Indigenous led Approaches*.

Lastly, the action for pillar 5 - *Social Infrastructure and Enabling Environment* - is to work with the *Department of Community Services* to enhance services and supports that are community based and address GBV, focusing on African Nova Scotians (*Bilateral Agreement*, [Link](#)).

New Brunswick

The context of the *Bilateral Agreement* of New Brunswick highlights the statistics that indigenous women and women living in rural areas are more vulnerable to GBV. The action under the pillar, *“Implementing Indigenous led approaches”* includes the only action of addressing *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit People* (MMIWG2S+) and *Violence against Indigenous Women, Girls & Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual* (2SLGBTQQIA+). Under the *Foundational* action in this agreement, funding has been given to support sexual violence research. Moreover, NB engages subject matter experts focused on Indigenous, 2SLGBTQQIA+ populations and other marginalized groups and supports participation of members of these communities in knowledge exchange (*Bilateral Agreement*, [Link](#)).

Northwest Territories

In the *Bilateral Agreement* context, GNWT acknowledges that Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people experience higher rates of gender-based violence, including sexual assault, intimate partner violence and intimate partner homicide at significantly higher rates than their non-Indigenous counterparts. The new and enhanced NWT initiatives that the *National*

Action Plan to End GBV (GBV-NAP) will help fund, align with and complement many of the new strategies that the Government of NWT has developed, such as the GNWT's response to the *Calls for Justice on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People* entitled *Changing the Relationship*. The **Prevention** action in the **Bilateral Agreement** includes enhanced core funding for Native Women's Association of the NWT to provide GBV prevention programming. The actions under the pillar, **Indigenous led approaches** include- healing residential school GBV survivors and their families. This initiative will provide funding and space for gatherings where residential school survivors who experienced GBV can heal together to interrupt the cycles that perpetuate gender-based violence and share their knowledge about the healing needs of the people of NWT as well as a project to finalize the development of GBV terminology in all 9 Indigenous Languages in NWT (**Bilateral Agreement**, [Link](#)).

The **Strategic Framework** ([Link](#)) of NWT explicitly mentions newcomers, racialized individuals, 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals, Indigenous peoples, people living in poverty, people with disabilities (PWD), elders, and youth as groups particularly impacted by family violence. These groups experience marginalization, discrimination, and unique barriers to accessing resources, housing, and services. The framework acknowledges that Gender-based violence, family violence, and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls are overlapping and intersecting issues. The province aims to dedicate more resources to community organizations and enable communities to develop a healing pathway for men, women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people to stop the cycles of intergenerational trauma from colonization, residential school experiences and lateral violence. Indigenous partners, Elders, Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ leaders are equipped with the knowledge to lead systems-wide change that is transformative and profound.

The province aims to address the root causes of gender-based and family violence if we are to live well together in the future. The GNWT acknowledges that the traditional relationship fostered between settler colonial and Indigenous governments has been paternalistic, with the assumption that settler colonial governments know better. This framework recognizes that every single resident of the territory is a capable person, and that the GNWT has a responsibility to approach Indigenous partners as equals and experts. In coordination with Indigenous organizations and people, the goal is to stop the cycle of intergenerational trauma that leads to a pattern of family violence across the NWT (**Strategic Framework**, [Link](#)).

Actions under Pillar one, ***Supporting survivors and their families*** include working with partners to expand emergency family violence shelter access and ensure shelters can cater to a wider service user demographic, including shelters for families with older, male children, 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals, men and elders. Initiative for pillar 4- ***Indigenous led approaches*** include increased funding access to Indigenous led initiatives. The initiative goal is to dedicate more resources to community organizations and enable communities to develop a healing pathway for men, women and 2SLGBTQIA+ people to stop the cycles of intergenerational trauma from colonization, residential school experiences and lateral violence (***Strategic Framework, [Link](#)***).

Yukon

The mandate of the Government of Yukon's *Women and Gender Equity* is to advance equitable economic, legal, and social outcomes of all genders and sexual orientations and advance the integration of intersectional considerations throughout government. Organizations that are part of the *Yukon Women's Coalition* will engage with each other, including collaboration with 2SLGBTQIA+ organizations, on gaps, capacity building, mentorship and strategic planning to stabilize the NGO GBV sector in a way that initiatives may better address the intersectional needs of a diverse population.

According to the ***Bilateral Agreement***, actions under the pillar "***Prevention***" include media literacy to counteract the effects of harmful misinformation that perpetuates gender-based violence, including against 2SLGBTQIA+ people, and racialized groups. Yukon's ***MMIWG2S+ Strategy*** includes actions to prevent and address gender-based violence perpetrated against Indigenous women, girls and Two-spirit plus people in the Yukon, which falls under the ***Indigenous led approaches***. Moreover, *Prevention of Violence against Aboriginal Women* (PVAAW) addresses the prevention of violence against Indigenous women in the Yukon. This action will focus on projects that address the prevention of violence against Indigenous women in the Yukon. This fund is available to Yukon registered societies and Yukon First Nations. This fund will be reviewed as part of Action Foundation: stakeholder engagement, research and knowledge mobilization towards implementation of the National Action Plan to End GBV (***Bilateral Agreement, [Link](#)***).

Nunavut

As per the *Bilateral Agreement* of Nunavut, Pillar 1- ***Support for victims, survivors, and their families*** includes the creation of GBV support materials for children, with educational materials designed to address consent and GBV for 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals and other marginalized groups. In Pillar 2- ***Prevention***, the 2SLGBTQQIA+ awareness campaign/workshop focuses on raising awareness and providing resources to combat homophobia and transphobia in the context of GBV. Lastly, under Pillar 4- ***Implementing Indigenous-led Approaches, Reclaiming the Whole Women (RTWW)*** program was developed and is facilitated by the *Pirurvik centre* and provides traditional knowledge exchange between Inuit cultural advisors and participants and can focus on issues such as GBV. This program emphasizes reclaiming the parts of Inuit women lost through colonization (*Bilateral Agreement*, [Link](#)).

Ontario

Pillar 4- *Indigenous led approaches* of the *Bilateral Agreement of GBV-NAP (Bilateral Agreement, Link)* include action such as stabilization funding for indigenous communities to support healing from GBV, and from intergenerational violence and trauma. Such support means:

- increased funding to enhance the existing *Family Well Being program (FWBp)*. The latter was co-developed with indigenous partners to design and deliver prevention-focused, culturally responsive services and supports to help individuals and families to heal from the effects of GBV and intergenerational trauma. One of the co-developed primary objectives of the program is to end GBV against Indigenous women.
- Moreover, action to *stabilize funding for indigenous programs and services*, aimed at reducing GBV, will increase funding to help stabilize the existing *Indigenous Healing and Wellness Strategy*. The strategy will continue to provide indigenous designed and delivered holistic approaches to healing, health, and wellness that integrates supportive resources and community development, prevention and promotion, crisis response and therapeutic services aimed at reducing and addressing GBV in Indigenous communities.
- increased funding to enhance the existing *Indigenous Victim Services Programs* that are designed, managed and delivered by and for indigenous peoples. These programs aim to provide a wholistic approach to healing, health and wellness that integrates supportive

resources and community development, prevention and promotion, crisis response and therapeutic services aimed at reducing GBV (*Bilateral Agreement*, [Link](#)).

Ontario-STANDS: Standing Together Against Gender-based Violence Now through Decisive Actions, Prevention, Empowerment and Supports is Ontario's Action Plan against GBV. This plan acknowledges that Gender-based violence is a complex, multi-faceted problem and must be addressed with evidence-based and targeted approaches. That is Ontario supports culturally responsive and trauma-informed initiatives and programs for newcomer, Indigenous and rural and remote communities government of Ontario and is currently leading to respond to gender-based violence, especially violence against Indigenous women and girls through actions in ***Pathways to Safety: Ontario's Strategy in Response to the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.*** Some of the actions are:

- helping to enhance the capacity of First Nations police services to provide specialized, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive policing throughout intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking investigations,
- supporting an economic forum, hosted by Ontario Native Women's Association, to support Indigenous women's financial well-being,
- a community call for proposals will expand gender-based violence prevention programs and fund innovative evidence-based approaches that respond to local and community-specific needs. One goal of this proposal is to support safety and reduce recurrence that include action of introducing and expanding culturally responsive programs, including Indigenous-led programs, that help improve parenting and raise awareness and understanding among men on the root causes of gender-based violence,
- prevention action to ensure Indigenous-led approaches and culturally responsive and safe services for newcomers and other diverse communities,
- stabilized funding aims to help enhance the capacity of First Nations police services to provide specialized, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive policing throughout intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking investigations, by providing more than \$5 million in 2023–24 for *the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG)* fund grant (*Action Plan*, [Link](#)).

Quebec

Some people find themselves in contexts of increased vulnerability in relation to violence against women. Included are people of sexual and gender diversity, the elderly, immigrant or racialized women, Indigenous women and those living in poverty or with disabilities (*Resources*, [Link](#)). As per Quebec's *Integrated Govt. Strategy* (2022-2027), the intersections between different systems of discrimination place some women in contexts of heightened vulnerability to sexual and domestic violence, such as immigrant, racialized and Indigenous women, seniors, women living in poverty or with disabilities, and people of sexual or gender diversity. While sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment and domestic violence stem first from the patriarchal system, other systems of discrimination are indeed intertwined. Some actions mentioned in the integrated strategy of Quebec ([Link](#)) are:

- I. Making immigrants and people from ethnocultural minorities aware of domestic violence and organizations working in the area of domestic violence aware of the realities of these individuals.
- II. Supporting structuring projects aimed at preventing domestic and family violence and meeting the needs of First Nations and Inuit women and girls who are victims of these forms of violence in urban areas and in the communities.
- III. Supporting the development of culturally appropriate projects on sexual, domestic and family violence for First Nations and Inuit men and the people around them.
- IV. Supporting awareness-raising, prevention and intervention projects by and for Indigenous women and girls in the areas of sexual assault and sexual exploitation.
- V. Work with Indigenous partners to promote the sharing expertise in intervention with men who show violent behaviors in context of GBV within organizations wishing to develop these specific services.
- VI. Forming a working committee to analyze the accessibility of services for persons who are victims of domestic violence, who have disabilities and propose ways to improve it.
- VII. Support the initiatives of indigenous police forces regarding support for persons who are victims of sexual violence and the supervisions of perpetrators at all stages of the intervention continuum (*Strategy*, [Link](#)).

Manitoba

Manitoba announced funding to support Giganawaenimaanaanig, formerly known as the Manitoba MMIWG2S+ Partnership Implementation Plan, an Indigenous-led project that will work strategically to implement the *Calls for Justice from Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls* in a culturally relevant way in Manitoba. Moreover, *Women and Gender Equity MB* focused on the provision of a diverse set of services that meet the needs of Manitobans with various intersecting identities, through a holistic, intersectional and culturally informed framework Indigenous-led initiatives. These initiatives include cultural and spiritual healing practices and continue to work towards meeting the recommendations set out in the *Calls to Action* from the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission* and the *Calls for Justice from Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*.

The “*Indigenous led approaches*” of Manitoba are:

- Operational funding to support *Clan Mothers Healing Village* (CMHV). CMHV. This is a land based village that provides culturally relevant solutions for women, girls, two-spirit Peoples and transgender individuals who have experienced multi-generational trauma, sexual violence, sexual exploitation and human trafficking in a community living environment. It incorporates traditional Indigenous healing and spiritual mentorship, while encouraging individual growth through programming, training, and social enterprise.
- There will be provisions for increased access to skilled labour training for Indigenous individuals who have experienced violence and/or sexual exploitation. Funding will support the delivery of a skilled labour training initiative for Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people who have experienced violence or sexual exploitation.
- The **foundational work** will include developing a data collection strategy to inform progress on Manitoba’s Framework: *Addressing Gender-Based Violence and the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*. The data collection framework will use an intersectional feminist lens to identify gaps and inform strategies for data collection in Manitoba (*Bilateral Agreement*, [Link](#)).

Manitoba's commitment to reconciliation has a particular focus on addressing the persistent and long-standing negative impacts of residential schools and reconciling relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples of Manitoba. Following the release of *the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's* final report, the Manitoba government unanimously ratified *The Path to Reconciliation Act*. The Manitoba government is committed to taking concrete steps to respond to the recommendations from the *National Inquiry's Calls for Justice*. One important part of Manitoba's response is the establishment of the GBVCC to coordinate government actions. Initiatives listed in this *Framework* also connect to a number of the *Calls for Justice*. Manitoba will engage with the Grand Chiefs, Grandmother Councils, MMIWG Coalition co-chairs and community stakeholders on the *Calls for Justice* and this framework will complement the provincial response to **MMIWG and the Calls for Justice**. Manitoba will work with its federal, provincial and territorial partners on the *MMIWG National Action Plan (Framework, [Link](#))*.

2. Similarities and Differences Across Provinces and Territories

A. Provinces that acknowledge Intersectionality in GBV

British Columbia acknowledges the role of intersectional identities directly, while PEI names different groups of vulnerable people without naming its approach intersectional. However, PEI, in its sexual violence prevention strategy, claims that it will apply an intersectional approach to the design and delivery of actions. Yukon claims its mandate is to advance the integration of intersectional considerations throughout government taking initiatives in order to better address the intersectional needs of diverse populations. Nunavut, while not explicitly naming intersectionality, acknowledges the intensified sufferings of some groups of marginalized people. Quebec mentions that the intersections between different systems of discrimination place some women in contexts of heightened vulnerability. As per Manitoba, the data collection framework will utilize an intersectional feminist lens to identify gaps and inform strategies for data collection in Manitoba. In general, provinces take some sort of action or recognition of intersectionality. Some however address/acknowledge the vulnerability of different groups and take actions even without naming their approach intersectional. All the provinces therefore have some sort of intersectional element present in their documents and resources.

B. Recognizing Particular Intersectional Identities and Vulnerable Groups

Indigenous-Led Programs

All 13 provinces and territories in Canada have taken some form of action or acknowledgment of Indigenous peoples in the context of gender-based violence (GBV). This includes developing action plans, implementing strategies, and collaborating with Indigenous communities to address the unique challenges faced by Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ individuals.

2SLGBTQIA+ Focused Support

Most of the provinces have mentioned or taken actions for this group in particular. While Saskatchewan and Ontario have not explicitly targeted 2SLGBTQI+ and gender-diverse individuals in their bilateral agreements, other provinces and territories have taken significant steps to address the unique needs of these communities in the context of gender-based violence. Provinces such as BC, NS, NL, NWT, Yukon, and Nunavut have taken more direct actions in this regard.

Recognition/Action for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)

Seven provinces and territories recognize the heightened vulnerability of persons with disabilities (PWD) to GBV. While British Columbia, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec recognize and take actions for PWD, Alberta, PEI, Northwest Territories acknowledge it without having any specific action in these documents.

Recognition/Action for Newcomers, Immigrants and Refugees

British Columbia, PEI acknowledge/mention newcomers/immigrants/refugees in the documents while Nova Scotia, Ontario, Newfoundland and Labrador Quebec mention and have some kind of action targeting/including directly these groups. Newfoundland and Labrador uses the term “non-status and temporary status migrants” along with immigrants and newcomers.

Recognition/Action for Black/People of Color/ Racialized People

Only four provinces mention/take action of some sort for these people. Alberta only mentions Black people. PEI mentions Black and People of Color using the term BIPOC and addresses them in one of its proposed actions. Newfoundland and Labrador mentions Black and racialized women

while Nova Scotia mentions Black and African Nova Scotian as well as other people of color separately. Nova Scotia also mentions to have acted for African NS people.

Table 4: Recognizing Particular Intersectional Identities by Provinces & Territories

	PWD	Newcomer/Immigrant /Refugee	People of Color/ Black/ Racialized	Indigenous	2SLGBTQI+
BC	✓	✓	×	✓	✓
MB	×	×	×	✓	✓
AB	✓	×	✓	✓	✓
SK	×	×	×	✓	×
QC	✓	✓	×	✓	✓
ON	×	✓	×	✓	×
PEI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NB	×	×	×	✓	✓
NL	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NWT	✓	×	×	✓	✓

YT	×	×	×	✓	✓
NU	×	×	×	✓	✓

C. Key Features of Provinces

BC: B.C.'s Anti-Racism Data Act was created to help identify gaps and address systemic racism in provincial programs and services. The new anti-hate community support fund is for 2SLGBTQIA+ community organizations in order to enhance security measures and help with the costs of graffiti removal and repairs to damaged property when hate-motivated vandalism is inflicted on the community. Support will be provided to young people at a vulnerable time by launching new online resources for youth transitioning out of government care. Moreover, there is the *Path Forward Community Fund* to the *National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls* and the *Calls for Justice*. Furthermore, there will be new virtual counselling for survivors of intimate partner violence and sexual assault. These services will prioritize survivors who are Indigenous, racialized, 2SLGBTQIA+, living with a disability or who face other barriers in accessing supports when they need it most. Offering support virtually will also help reach survivors who live in rural and remote parts of B.C.

Newfoundland and Labrador: The Coalition against the Sexual Exploitation of the Youth (CASEY) will produce educational resources through video content to increase awareness and provide educational information pertaining to sexual exploitation in Newfoundland & Labrador. To ensure the video is inclusive, the province is requesting translation of the video in 4 languages, one would be an Indigenous language, and the three others would reflect languages most common for the newcomer population to Newfoundland & Labrador), Another action under this is the Investment in Planned Parenthood's successful 2SLGBTQIA+ Warm Line, a peer-to-peer support service run by and for members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, increasing capacity and provincial reach of 2SLGBTQIA+ outreach and service delivery in partnership with community organizations, such as Women's Centres, Violence Prevention organizations, End

Sexual Violence NL, Trans Support NL, Community Youth Networks, Seniors organizations, Disability organizations, Friendship Centres, and newcomer organizations.

PEI: The province aims to pilot a grant fund for community projects that support sexual violence response and prevention efforts, with a focus on populations disproportionately affected by sexual violence (e.g., Black, Indigenous, people of color, women, transgender people, and gender-diverse people).

Nova Scotia: The province aims to enhance services and supports that are community based and address GBV, focusing on African Nova Scotians, community grants focused on children & youth, men & boys, and Indigenous women & girls; and address systemic barriers (African NS, newcomer, disabilities, criminalized, LGBTQ2+)

Northwest Territories: Healing Residential School GBV Survivors and their Families, share their knowledge about the healing needs of Northerners and work on a project to finalize the development of GBV terminology in all 9 Indigenous Languages in NWT as well as expand emergency family violence shelter access and funding.

Yukon: The province aims to enhance media literacy to counteract the effects of harmful misinformation that perpetuates gender-based violence including against 2SLGBTQIA+ people, and racialized groups as well as prevent violence against Aboriginal Women.

Nunavut: The key actions of Nunavut include ensuring that Inuit men and boys are provided services that are gender-and Inuit-specific, safe housing initiatives, and 2SLGBTQIA+ awareness campaign/workshop. The *Reclaiming the Whole Women (RTWW) Program* aims to provide traditional knowledge exchange between Inuit cultural advisors and participants with focus on issues such as GBV.

Ontario: The province aims to provide Indigenous-led approaches and culturally responsive and safe services for newcomers and other diverse communities. Stabilized funding aims to help enhance the capacity of First Nations police services while an economic forum for indigenous

women, indigenous healing and strategy are some of Ontario's key actions against intersectional violence.

Manitoba: Manitoba has initiated several key actions to combat gender-based violence (GBV) through culturally informed, community-led approaches: *Clan Mothers Healing Village* provides a culturally relevant solution to healing, while the *Skilled labour training initiative* is meant for indigenous people. The foundational work of GBV-NAP will include developing a data collection strategy to inform progress on Manitoba's Framework: *Addressing Gender-Based Violence and the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*. The data collection framework will use an intersectional feminist lens to identify gaps and inform strategies.

Quebec: Quebec has taken many initiatives in terms of intersectional GBV. Making immigrants and people from ethnocultural minorities aware of domestic violence is one of those initiatives. QC is also supporting structuring projects that are aimed at preventing domestic and family violence and meeting the needs of First Nations and Inuit women and girls. The province is planning to work with Indigenous partners to promote sharing expertise in intervention with men who show violent behaviors in the context of GBV. The province is also forming a working committee to analyze the accessibility of services for persons who are victims of domestic violence, who have disabilities and to propose ways to improve it. There will be support for the initiatives of indigenous police forces regarding persons who are victims of sexual violence and the supervisions of perpetrators at all stages of the intervention continuum.

Saskatchewan: Expertise will be sought by the province to develop cultural and trauma-informed resources to help prevent Indigenous women and girls from going missing, being murdered, or becoming victims of GBV. Additionally, the *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls+ (MMIWG+) Community Response Fund* will be used, and expertise will be sought to conduct research into reducing and eliminating IPV from the community using a prevention approach that focuses on interrupting violence.

V. Institutional Violence Across Provinces and Territories

1. Conceptualizations of GBV

British Columbia

The actions under *Support for victims, survivors and their families* include:

- stabilized funding for three *Domestic Violence Units* (DVU) and one *Counter Exploitation Unit* community-based positions. DVUs pair dedicated police officer(s) with community-based victim services and, in some communities, a child protection worker to improve case coordination and collaboration in highest-risk cases of domestic violence. The *Counter Exploitation Unit* is a partnership between victim services workers and detectives to support victims of sexual exploitation and human trafficking through the investigation process and the criminal justice system.
- Enhanced funding will be allotted to the *Prevention, Education, Advocacy, Counselling and Empowerment* (PEACE) program and Violence is Preventable program (VIP). The PEACE program is a free, confidential program across B.C. for children and youth aged 3 to 18 who have experienced domestic violence. PEACE programs provide individual and group counselling to help children and youth. The VIP is a free, confidential, school-based program for students K-12. VIP presentations are delivered by PEACE counsellors.
- Additionally, there will be enhanced funding for a sexual abuse **intervention** program that provides specialized assessment and treatment services for families and their children; youth under age 19 who have been sexually abused; and youth with sexual behaviour problems under age 12. Programming for children and youth who have experienced sexual abuse is also a key prevention measure to break the cycle of violence in recognition that people who have experienced abuse in childhood are more likely to experience or perpetrate GBV in adulthood.
- **Prevention** action includes research potential for GBV-related prevention and mitigation initiatives that can be applied to industrial projects that undergo environmental assessment by the B.C. Environmental Assessment Office (EAO).
- Moreover, engaging with students and other members of the post-secondary community to inform the development of an action plan to prevent, address and respond to sexualized

violence at post-secondary institutions is a foundation action of the agreement (*Bilateral Agreement*, [Link](#)).

According to the *Safe and Supported: British Columbia's GBV Action Plan* ([Link](#)), in order to protect people at their jobs, WorkSafe BC:

- is updating the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation*, policies and guidelines with a single definition of harassment and violence.
- There will be new training and supports for staff at shelters and transition housing, including on brain injury awareness,
- options to expand the mandate of civilian-led oversight to include incidences of intimate partner violence and sexual assault by police and public safety personnel are currently being explored as part of the *Policing and Public Safety Modernization Initiative*.
- work is currently underway to modernize the *Family Law Act* and recently introduced amendments to the *Crime Victim Assistance Act*.
- working to identify additional service-level improvements that will further embed trauma-informed practices and streamline administrative processes. (*Action Plan*, [Link](#)).

Through the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation*, WorkSafe BC has established a legal obligation for employers to address violence in the workplace that puts employees at risk. This means employers must take the necessary steps to keep workers safe from the risks of gender-based violence while they are at work.

The *Employment Standards Act* gives employees affected by domestic or sexual violence access to up to five days of paid leave and five days of unpaid leave per calendar year. If necessary, an employee can also take up to 15 more weeks of unpaid leave. Initiatives also include expanding cellular service to make travel safer on more than 1,000 kilometers of highway through rural and remote communities in B.C. (*Action Plan*, [Link](#)).

In March 2023, this government passed the *Intimate Images Protection Act*. Beginning in early 2024, this law will help people who have had their intimate images shared without their consent get the images removed from the internet more quickly. This will also give people a more effective way to seek monetary damages (*Action Plan*, [Link](#)).

Passed in June 2022, B.C.'s *Anti-Racism Data Act* was created to help identify gaps and address systemic racism in provincial programs and services. BC needs to understand who is seeking help from community organizations and victim services, and when and why survivors don't access support. This law focuses on four areas which include continued collaboration with Indigenous Peoples, collaboration with an anti-racism committee, increasing transparency and accountability, and annual public data releases (*Action Plan*, [Link](#)).

Alberta

As per the Government website, female genital mutilation is a crime in Canada. The *Criminal Code of Canada* cites FGM/C as a form of aggravated assault (Section 268), and carries a maximum imprisonment term of 14 years. 4 GBV awareness campaigns are run aligning with the 16 days activism in Alberta since 2015 (*Resources*, [Link](#)).

Manitoba

It is important to identify the existing services that the Department of Justice currently employs to support Manitobans who have experienced GBV. These include *Victim Services* and the *Family Resolution Services*. WAGE MB has focused the first year of funding on four of the five Pillars and the Foundation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence rather than Pillar Three (*Responsive Justice System*). Plans for subsequent years can include initiatives that fall under this pillar.

Support for victims, survivors and their families pillar includes (*Bilateral Agreement*, [Link](#)):

- creating access to child trauma specialists within the gender-based violence sector, specifically for providing specialized care for children and youth that have witnessed or experienced gender-based violence.
- This pillar's action also includes creating access to culturally relevant education to promote healing for individuals who have experienced gender-based violence.
- Funding support and provision of the 10-week *Red Road to Healing* (RRH) program delivery as well as other gender-based violence focused cultural healing programs. Funding and delivery of these programs will occur through Manitoba's gender-based violence sector agencies.

- Programming should centre on Indigenous teachings and ceremonies to facilitate healing for women and those who identify as women and who have experienced gender-based violence.
- Assisting *Toba Centre for Children and Youth* in creating and resourcing a space where children and youth who have experienced physical or sexual violence can access forensic nursing services as well as other support and healing services. Toba Centre is opening a new child advocacy centre in September 2023 where victims and survivors can access wrap-around support in a community setting.
- Moreover, the *Gender Based Violence Program* provides annualized operational funding for women's resource centres that support individuals and families who have experienced gender-based and domestic violence.

In terms of the pillar “**Prevention**” (*Bilateral Agreement*, [Link](#)), Manitoba:

- aims to develop a large-scale public awareness campaign on preventing and addressing gender-based violence. It also will implement the "Power of Being You" program, a signature YWCA Canada violence prevention conference for young people aged 12-14;
- Public awareness campaign on preventing and addressing gender-based violence; Topics may include raising awareness and fostering greater understanding of healthy relationships and consent, as well as targeted ads for youth.
- There will be provision of operational funding for Indigenous cultural education for young men in northern Manitoba, focused on healthy relationships, addressing toxic masculinity and power. The programming will take place in schools and community spaces across communities in the central north region of Manitoba.
- Develop a program for community-based service, especially focused on gender-based violence prevention and support provided on site in larger public housing developments.
- Programming will improve access to service, intervention at early stages of conflict and develop stronger sense of community, belonging and overall wellness of neighborhood.
- The Gender Based Violence Program provides annualized operational funding for *Intimate Partner Abuse Recovery Programs* and *Transitional Housing Programs* under the “**Social Infrastructure and Enabling Environment**” that support individuals and families who have experienced gender-based violence. Both sets of programs offer safe, protective,

affordable interim housing and services for individuals who have experienced gender-based violence. These programs also include individual and group counselling, parenting support, and information and referral.

- There will be support for an additional cohort of students for the *Shelter Support Foundations Microcredential* in 2023/24. The gender-based violence and homelessness shelter sectors have experienced difficulties hiring and retaining qualified staff. Women and Gender Equity Manitoba, in collaboration with the Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters and End Homelessness Winnipeg developed a program that provides staff with micro credential training at Red River College Polytech. This program focuses on training both individuals working within the shelter sector, as well as individuals interested in gaining employment within the shelter sector.
- Finally, the **foundational** action includes developing a continuum of healing support organization for the gender based violence sector in Manitoba, similar to a sector council. Will focus on stabilizing the gender-based violence sector; working towards systems change and alignment; building capacity; improving relationships with all levels of government, ultimately working towards a seamless service delivery experience for Manitobans (***Bilateral Agreement***, [Link](#)).

The Manitoba's framework is organized into three key objectives (***Framework***, [Link](#)). Manitoba is committed to undertaking actions within each objective over the next three years to address the province's strategic goals for minimizing gender-based violence. The three objectives include:

1. PREVENTION: Address root causes and systemic drivers of gender-based violence. More specifically: a. Support diverse initiatives involving men and boys in gender-based violence prevention; b. Support trauma-based mental health and addictions services across Manitoba for all genders; c. Raise awareness and foster greater understanding of healthy relationships, consent and the spectrum of gender-based violence, through initiatives; d. Support cross-sectoral collaboration and co development; e. Implement "Pathways to a Better Future – Manitoba's Poverty Reduction Strategy; f. Support children and youth; g. Support Indigenous parents and communities; h. Support to local governments.

2. SUPPORT: Provide direct assistance to survivors and victims of gender-based violence to make sure they get the right help at the right time to reduce the impact of violence and support healing.

More specifically: a. Ensure equitable gender-based violence services in rural and northern Manitoba; b. Increase accessibility of information about support services; c. Safe housing and shelter options; d. Support for families; e. Support for youth; f. Sexual exploitation, missing persons and human trafficking; g. Support individuals experiencing violence or who have experienced violence in the past; h. Implement the Family Law Modernization Strategy; i. Support greater cross-sectoral collaboration; j. Address the Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry Into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

3. INTERVENTION: Intervene and support people who have committed gender-based violence to help end the cycle of violence. More specifically: a. Strengthen restorative justice; b. Provide reintegration support and reduce recidivism; c. Improve knowledge sharing and collaboration across government and non-governmental sectors (*Framework, [Link](#)*).

Saskatchewan

The *National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence* aligns with the Government of Saskatchewan's pillars of intervention, prevention, and accountability to work towards ending all forms of *interpersonal violence and abuse*. The federal dollars, combined with Saskatchewan's matching contribution, will continue to see most of this funding go to initiatives that target prevention, spread across each of the Plan's five pillars: *Support for victims, Survivors and their Families; Prevention; Responsive Justice System; Implementing Indigenous-led Approaches; and Social Infrastructure and Enabling Environment (Bilateral Agreement, [Link](#))*.

In terms of *Support for victims, survivors and their families*: grants will be available to agencies to increase their knowledge and skills in the dynamics of complex care for victims of interpersonal violence and abuse, such as capacity building, and social finance approaches (*Bilateral Agreement, [Link](#)*).

Prevention measures (*Bilateral Agreement, [Link](#)*) include:

- Annual Grant Fund that supports community initiatives that target prevention and women in the economy;
- developing and delivering a provincial training plan that enhances the province's capacity for delivering intervention treatment to those who perpetuate intimate partner abuse and violence and develop tools to assist front line personnel to increase education / awareness;

- expanding public awareness campaign that helps people understand what they can do to stand up against interpersonal violence and abuse (IVA);
- development of educators and the delivery of programming that responds to attitudes, beliefs and cultural norms that contribute to gender-based violence (GBV) for youth that focuses on recognizing GBV and sexual harassment not only as a women's issue but also a men's issue in which all men should be educated and active.

Saskatchewan's *Responsive Justice System* actions (*Bilateral Agreement*, [Link](#)) are:

- Seeking expertise to develop a mechanism to enhance collaboration and communication among professionals in the family justice system, child protection system and police services, leading to more effective and efficient responses to family violence cases;
- Enhance victim-centric responses to gender-based violence by developing and implementing training and capacity building initiatives for police, defense lawyers, government staff and other criminal justice professionals to ensure victims feel empowered and safe throughout the justice process. Also, it includes the right to competent and trauma informed counsel-developing support for victims throughout sexual offence trials regarding the admissibility of evidence of a complainant's sexual history and the production of third-party records.

Social Infrastructure and Enabling Environment includes the action of supporting women in nontraditional roles with funding for 1A training. The *foundational* action will consist in conducting research through expertise into reducing and eliminating IPV using a prevention approach that focuses on interrupting violence (*Bilateral Agreement*, [Link](#)).

Prince Edward Island

PEI's work for the *National Action Plan to End GBV* will be anchored in the Coordinated Response to Adult Sexual Violence Prevention Strategy. Prince Edward Island (PEI) identifies and emphasizes the need for systemic change to address gender-based violence (GBV), recognizing it as deeply rooted in systemic issues such as racism, misogyny, and heterosexism. The strategies of the province call for a comprehensive, collaborative approach prioritizing policy updates, population-specific awareness campaigns, and trauma-informed care to prevent GBV and enhance support for survivors. PEI's approach to implementing the the *National Action Plan to End GBV*

includes collaborating with departments across government as well as with the community to enhance existing actions and to undertake new actions related to GBV. PEI's *Bilateral Agreement* ([Link](#)) under the pillar of *supporting the Victims, Survivors and their Families*

- Plans to update policies and protocols to GBV,
- Aims to continue exploring Enhancements for Interpretation Supports for victims and survivors of GBV,
- Aims to support community organizations to deliver GBV support to victims, survivors, and their families including populations at risk (e.g. BIPOC, immigrant, and refugee women).

In terms of *Prevention*, (*Bilateral Agreement*, [Link](#)) actions are:

- Public Awareness Raising through population specific and evidence informed public awareness campaigns to prevent GBV,
- Collaborate with Post-secondary Institutions (PSIs) to prevent GBV,
- aligning with the *Creating A Culture of Care Strategy*, trauma and violence informed training, in order to develop an integrated training plan for GBV prevention, which includes trauma and violence informed approaches as well as training focused on preventing revictimization.

Under *Restorative Justice System*, (*Bilateral Agreement*, [Link](#)) PEI aims to

- explore the Collaborative review of sexual assault cases,
- update victim spaces and interview rooms within the justice system and
- targets to engage subject matter experts training for professionals in the justice system in order to develop training focused on preventing and addressing GBV.

Pillar five, *Social Infrastructure and Enabling Environment*, (*Bilateral Agreement*, [Link](#)) includes:

- the action of developing protocols and actions for climate change impacts related to GBV;
- GBV Training for professionals in the justice system.

- The foundational actions include leadership, coordination, and engagement aiming to develop the capacity to coordinate projects, engage external stakeholders, collect, monitor, and report data.
- establishing a supportive community of practice for GBV service providers for knowledge sharing opportunities and peer support.
- creating a community-led response GBV (*Bilateral Agreement*, [Link](#)).

In its *Strategy for Preventing and Responding to Adult Sexual Violence*, PEI mentions that:

- Systemic change is needed to reach the roots of sexual violence (e.g. racism, misogyny, heterosexism, etc.); Therefore, this strategy is situated in a larger context of progress toward equity and social justice and works to align with strategies on child protection, intimate partner violence, poverty reduction, anti-racism, equity measures, and gender equality (*Strategy*, [Link](#)).

The specific actions outlined in the PEI strategy are as follows (*Strategy*, [Link](#)):

- Implementing an ongoing comprehensive public education and public awareness campaign that increases recognition and knowledge of the continuum of sexual harassment and violence, realities and myths, services and supports, and bystander interventions;
- Ensuring K-12 education and resource supports for the whole school community on healthy relationships, sex education and promoting positive social norms are up-to-date, evidence-based and reflect current best practices (e.g., curriculum, services offered via Student Well-Being Teams);
- Collaborate with post-secondary institutions to develop and implement a coordinated approach to prevention that addresses population risk factors;
- Enhancing measures to prevent sexual violence against residents of long-term care facilities, community care facilities, and other residential facilities serving vulnerable adults;
- Supporting private, public, and volunteer organizations to establish and implement policies and protocols to prevent and respond to sexual violence;

- Collaborating with community organizations, government agencies, and businesses to advance social responsibility and enhance measures in licensed establishments to reduce the risk of sexual violence;
- Improving access to justice and support for survivors through timely access to counselling, legal information, and navigation by continued investment and support of programs and services (e.g., creating short-term counselling supports in Victim Services);
- Reviewing programs and policies with a view to increasing access to financial support for survivors of sexual violence;
- Exploring how restorative justice can play a role in some cases of sexual violence;
- Developing an integrated plan that will renew, enhance, and sustain training to ensure that all providers who may interact with survivors and perpetrators have core competencies in trauma-informed care, as well as monitor/evaluate the number of staff who have completed this training to inform the training plan;
- Develop and implement a sustainability plan for and enhancement to the Enhanced Emergency Sexual Assault Services program; Establish a Police Response to Sexual Violence Protocol. The protocol would set out the minimum training standards for responding to sexual assault complaints and carrying out sexual assault investigations, as well as best practice requirements in case management of sexual assault investigations;
- Ensure all police organizations responsible for carrying out sexual assault investigations have - and maintain - a collaborative case review process that includes victim services providers and advocates, as referenced in the *Canadian Framework for Collaborative Police Response on Sexual Violence*;
- Develop an Adult Sexual Violence Protocol similar to the Child Sexual Abuse Protocol.
- Establish a supportive community of practice encompassing service providers in government, non-profit organizations and the private sector for knowledge-sharing opportunities and peer support (*Strategy, [Link](#)*).

Newfoundland and Labrador

As per the context of the *Bilateral Agreement*, GBV is rooted in gender inequality, and is further intensified by systemic inequalities, such as sexism, discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, colonialism, racism, ableism, ageism, classism, poverty, and a

collective history of trauma. The province acknowledges that the government's approach to the implementation of this work against GBV will be from a systems-based approach.

In this agreement, actions under Pillar 1 - *Support for victims, survivors and their families* include:

- the enhancement of outreach and front-line service delivery of women's centres including the provincial expansion of the *Right Here, Right Now Counseling* services. The Women's Centres provide information, referrals and support directly to survivors of GBV. *The Right Here, Right Now Counselling* program allows individuals to access counselling free of charge. Survivors of GBV and other forms of violence are able to avail themselves of these low-barrier services and expansion of this program would mean more individuals could access the support they need.

Pillar 2- *Prevention* includes:

- Updating the current e-course (entitled: *Empowering them*) and enhancing its promotion by establishing partnerships with private and public sector partners. Enhancing the e-course will also help to promote and increase participation among public service employees. It also aims to invest in regional capacity building in the areas of GBV prevention with a targeted focus on outreach to marginalized and high-risk populations and specific areas of focus such as youth sexual exploitation, technology facilitated gender-based violence and a specific focus in Labrador.
- A collaborative community and government initiative will be undertaken to establish a centralized repository for regionally specific resources on GBV, using an intersectional approach, with the intention of shifting the cultural normalization of GBV. Resources will also be developed to target technology-facilitated GBV.
- The collaborative approach will be enhanced to violence prevention with government and community partnerships exploring the expansion of support and resources through the *Intimate Partner Violence Intervention Court*, community programming and counseling services.

Under pillar 3- *Responsive Justice System (Bilateral Agreement, [Link](#))*, there will be::

- action in partnership with the Department of Justice, Public Safety and community partners that will develop a targeted approach to violence prevention for men and boys (Men empowering men) involved in the criminal justice system.
- Moreover, there will be enhancements for the Justice System and Family Justice Services.
- Lastly, action is planned for Knowledge Mobilization with Regional Working Groups to End GBV

The Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women Newfoundland and Labrador (PACSW) is a legislated government agency. Throughout 2022-23, the *Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women* (PACSW) shared research and information on **women's health and well-being and safety - and on broader issues impacting on it** - with the public on all social media channels and the PACSW website. More specifically, this research pertained on:

- Supports for survivors of sexual violence
- Fertility options in Newfoundland and Labrador
- Best practices on diversity, equity and inclusion
- Information on supports for mental health
- Research on benefits of universal basic income
- Provincial housing programs.
- It provided recommendations on Interpersonal Violence Disclosure Protocol Act - 'Clare's Law'
- Recommendations on Human Trafficking Legislation
- Recommendations on funding supports for sexual violence.
- PACSW is a working member of the Coalition Against Human Trafficking Committee, Working member of the Coalition Against the Sexual Exploitation of Youth (CASEY) and Contributor to the Basic Income NL Working Group.
- Harassment in the workplace and social culture
- Current supports for survivors of domestic violence
- Current landscape of Human Trafficking in Newfoundland and Labrador
- Low barrier housing and shelter system in NL
- Sexual misconduct and child grooming practices.
- Shared intimate partner violence statistics in Newfoundland and Labrador

- Information on prevalence of harassment for women in politics,
- Information on low barrier housing and shelters,
- Information on need for sexual assault education and training in the province's criminal justice system.
- Provided advice to the Provincial Government about issues that affect women's safety.

Additionally, throughout the same period, i.e. 2022-23, PACSW shared information **on women's economic security and prosperity** with the public on all social channels and the PACSW website. This information sharing and public awareness, in collaboration with various stakeholders, was on:

- Increasing women's participation in politics;
- diversity in leadership positions on agencies, boards, and commissions;
- research on pay equity legislation, information on increase in housing and homelessness. PACSW also provided recommendations on pay equity legislation and implementation in Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Increasing affordable childcare options; Insecurity of single parents minimum wage work; Women political candidates in Newfoundland and Labrador;
- Scope of women's participation in the workforce;
- Gendering of unpaid domestic work;
- Snapshot on wages for early childhood educators;
- Awareness on rising costs for basic essential needs
- Impact of frontline workers during COVID-19
- Understanding Universal Basic Income (UBI)
- Systemic barriers that keep women financially insecure (**Report, [Link](#)**).

Further actions against GBV in Newfoundland and Labrador included (**Report, [Link](#)**) :

- On November 23, 2023, the *Office of Women and Gender Equality* hosted the annual flag raising and proclamation signing event at Confederation Building to mark the start of *16 days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence*, also known as the *Purple Ribbon Campaign*.

- Confederation Building was lit purple from November 25 (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to December 10, 2023 (World Human Rights Day).
- By March 31, 2026, in collaboration with the Federal Government, the *Office of Women and Gender Equality* will have worked with community partners and Provincial Government departments and agencies to implement an intersectional, research-based, culturally sensitive approach to the prevention of gender-based violence and corresponding results framework.
- In August 2023, bilateral negotiations between the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the federal government resulted in \$700,000 (2023-24: \$280,000; 2024-25: \$245,000; 2025-26: \$175,000) in Federal funding (for upcoming years) to support crisis hotlines in Newfoundland and Labrador (i.e., the 24 Hour *Support and Information Line* operated by *End Sexual Violence NL* and the *Domestic Violence Help Line* operated by the *Transition House Association of Newfoundland and Labrador*), so that they could offer more robust services, resources and supports to serve the urgent needs of those experiencing sexual and gender-based violence.
- In 2023-24, government awarded over 30 organizations throughout the province with approximately \$2.6 million in funding under the *National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence*, including: \$45,000 to *First Light St. John's Friendship Centre* to address gender based violence root causes in urban indigenous contexts; Over \$600,000 awarded to Indigenous Governments and Organizations to support grassroots opportunities to respond to and prevent gender-based violence (***Report, [Link](#)***).
- PACSW conducted jurisdictional scan and literature review on Sexual Violence in the Post-Secondary Education Context: ***Informing Policy, Enacting Change***. The report suggests that there is no federal legislation in place in Canada that oversees the development and implementation of these, as education falls under the jurisdiction of the provinces.
- Throughout 2023-24, PACSW also advised on policy and provided recommendations on several gender-based violence issues. Briefing notes were submitted to several government offices and departments, including the Office of Women and Gender

Equality, Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation, Education, Children, Seniors, and Social Development, and Justice and Public Safety (**Report**, [Link](#)).

Nova Scotia

In *Standing Together* there are three priority areas: Prevent, Support and Shift (*Evaluation Report*, [Link](#)). Some key contributions are as follows.

- **Support** activities are: Communities of Care; Domestic Violence (DV) Leave; Women's Safety App; Not Without Us; Halifax Regional Police Domestic Violence Offender Navigator; Truro HR Team Coordinator; Trauma Recovery (DV Court); High Risk Case Coordination Framework; Provincial Domestic Violence Highest Risk Table; Shelter Movers; Capacity Funding; HIFIS Community of Practice; Rebuild Infrastructure; Safer Spaces and COVID-19 Response.
- **Shift activities** are: Strategic plans and new operational models; Funding (Nova Scotia Native Women's Association, Jane Paul Indigenous Women's Centre); Equal Pay amendments; Transformational (child welfare, justice, education); Multiple Proceedings; Domestic Violence Court Program (Halifax, Sydney); Domestic Violence Training Framework; Domestic Violence Death Review Committee; Atlantic Domestic Homicide Review Network (ADHRN).

For system level change, the province explores it through the evaluation data based on five key outcomes: 1. increased knowledge and capacity of system actors 2. expanded, deepened relationships, collaborations, and networks 3. legislative and policy changes 4. practice changes 5. new narrative and culture shift. The evaluation and learning process found indicators and changes related to all five outcomes, suggesting that *Standing Together* had some impact on the system and has created momentum for more change (*Evaluation Report*, [Link](#)).

More specifically, since *Standing Together* began, several policies have been updated and relevant legislation amended. Legislative and policy changes have included:

- Amendments to the Fatalities Investigation Act;
- Amendments to create the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee and Child Death Review Committee;
- Amendment to the Labour Standard Code to allow for domestic violence leave;

- Labour Standard Code amendments to strengthen equal pay provisions;
- Ending the practice of birth alerts;
- Amendments to High-Risk Case Coordination Protocol. Several specific investments have increased the system's capacity to address domestic and gender-based violence: equitable funding for Strait Area Women's Place;
- new core funding for Nova Scotia Native Women's Association; funding for Jane Paul Indigenous Women's Resource Centre;
- support for YWCA's *Safer Spaces* to support survivors of human trafficking;
- COVID emergency response funding to women-serving organizations;
- investments in two new shelters (Bryony House and Chrysalis House) and two second-stage housing projects (Autumn House and Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre);
- data infrastructure for women-service organizations;
- new operational models at Bryony House, Autumn House, Naomi Society;
- pilot to explore expansion of Shelter Movers to rural Nova Scotia. (*Evaluation Report*, [Link](#)).

Standing Together has also provided opportunities for expanded, deepened relationships, collaborations, and in some cases created new networks, including:

- COVID-19 Domestic Violence Coordination Working Group;
- Domestic Violence Court Program Working Group;
- Nova Scotia Restorative Justice Program Task Group on Domestic and Sexual Violence;
- Provincial Highest Risk Domestic Violence Table; Memorandum of Understanding with Research Nova Scotia;
- Standing Together International Expert Advisory Panel;
- Standing Together Interdepartmental Committee;
- Partnership agreement with Saint Mary's University to support deep learning and evaluation;
- Atlantic Domestic Homicide Review Network (*Evaluation Report*, [Link](#)).

In the *Bilateral Agreement*, the province claims to be the first province to pass legislation declaring intimate partner violence an epidemic. The passing of Bill 482, *An Act to Declare Intimate Partner*

Violence an Epidemic re-affirms the province's commitment to ending gender-based violence. In the ***Bilateral Agreement***:

- under pillar1 – ***Support for victims, survivors and their families*** there will be increased capacity of the sector supporting survivors of human trafficking.
- The action under pillar 2- ***Prevention*** includes increasing the capacity of organizations that support youth and youth at-risk of GBV, so that they can offer GBV prevention programs and services.
- For ***Responsive Justice System***, in partnership with the Department of Justice, the province aims to provide a mix of in-person and virtual training sessions on GBV response and prevention.
- Action is planned to improve access to reliable technological tools (e.g., computers, cell phones) in rural and urban areas and work with *Getting Everyone Online Nova Scotia* to supply devices under Pillar 5 - ***Social Infrastructure and Enabling Environment*** (***Bilateral Agreement***, [Link](#)).

New Brunswick

The ***Bilateral Agreement*** of GBV-NAP mentions as problems unaffordable housing, limited services in rural areas, and limited public transportation; an interdepartmental working group is to lead the GBV-NAP project; healthy relationship school curriculum will be put in place; GBV Training for professionals in the justice system will be provided; accessible trauma support for frontline staff; creating a centralized access point for GBV information; GBV public awareness campaigns on DV, IPV, Human trafficking, child sexual harm, gender equity, cyber violence, and sexual violence; prevention program for perpetrators of GBV; and enhancements to the emergency intervention order program.

Pillar 1- “***Support for Victims, Survivors and Their Families***” includes actions such as:

- Establishing a therapeutic counselling fund for current clients of second stage, outreach, and transition houses;
- Providing interim bridge funding to domestic violence outreach program;
- Creating a GBV survivor support fund,

- Providing funding for existing programming within second stage houses for children exposed to GBV;
- Developing trauma supports to enhance the wellbeing of frontline staff in the GBV sector.

Pillar 2 “***Prevention***” actions include:

- Supporting a GBV education and awareness hub amalgamating existing campaigns and creating a centralized access point for GBV related information;
- Creating a GBV public awareness fund to help develop campaigns focused on domestic and intimate partner violence, human trafficking, child sexual harm, gender equity, cyber violence, and sexual violence;
- Expanding delivery of comprehensive healthy relationship education programming in schools;
- Enhanced programming within transition houses for children exposed to GBV;
- Assessing current programming and identify enhancements to perpetrator programming.

Moreover, pillar 3, called “***Responsive Justice System***” includes actions such as:

- Enhance and implement additional GBV training for police, lawyers, and court officials;
- Assess current Emergency Intervention Order (EIO) program and identify enhancements to be more accessible, responsive, trauma informed, victim centered, and timely.

Under ***Social Infrastructure and Enabling Environment***, NB has planned to implement actions such as:

- Provide interim bridge funding to transition houses and second stage housing;
- Enhancing and implementing GBV training for health, social development, and other public serving departments and organizations under ***Social Infrastructure and Enabling Environment (Bilateral Agreement, [Link](#))***.

Northwest Territories

According to the ***Bilateral Agreement ([Link](#))***, in Pillar 1-***Support for victims, survivors, and their families***, the *Regional System Navigators for GBV Services* initiative seeks to integrate services across various sectors, bringing together interprofessional teams and navigators for GBV services in partnership with Indigenous governments, community governments, and NGOs. Emergency

funding to increase safety and reduce impacts of GBV ensures timely access to culturally appropriate emergency support for survivors. The *Public Awareness Campaign for Care Systems for Children/Youth who have witnessed and/or experienced GBV* raises awareness and improves the care systems for children and youth who have been affected by GBV, further addressing institutional responses to these vulnerable groups.

The **Prevention** action of the **Bilateral Agreement** focuses on expanding and enhancing GBV prevention efforts. The GBV School Reconciliation and Innovation Coordinator enhances training and curriculum for school staff and students, promoting GBV prevention and intervention within educational settings. Enhancing core funding for *Status of Women Council of the NWT* to provide GBV prevention programming in the NWT. *Establishing Operational Funding for Community Partners for GBV Prevention - Northern Mosaic Network* also provides operational funding to another key community organization.

Pillar 5- **Social infrastructure and enabling environment** of the **Bilateral Agreement** include several key actions designed to improve the support systems for survivors of GBV:

- The *Enhanced Funding for Family Violence Shelters* action aims to provide additional funding for existing shelters, enhancing their infrastructure and capacity to deliver services and support to survivors.
- This includes funding to conduct a feasibility study to determine the shelter infrastructure needs and improve staff training to better address GBV.
- The *Northern Pathways to Housing - Women's Supportive Transitional Housing Expansion in Yellowknife and Aklavik* focuses on expanding supportive, transitional housing for women leaving domestic violence. These housing projects are in partnership with local organizations, including the *Yellowknife Women's Society* and the *Aklavik Indian Band*, to ensure survivors have a safe place to live while transitioning out of abusive situations (**Bilateral Agreement**, [Link](#)).

According to the **Strategic Framework**, **“Reclaiming the capable person: we are all capable persons when we have community”**, institutional bias and systemic range inequities existing in society can increase an individual’s risk of experiencing family violence and it mentions various systemic problems. This framework acknowledges the importance of supporting the whole

individual with comprehensive, wrap-around support when addressing family violence. The following five pillars of this strategic framework are designed to encompass a fully holistic response to family violence in the NWT, and to align with the pillars featured in the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence (GBV-NAP) (*Strategic Framework*, [Link](#)).

Pillar I of this *Strategic Framework* mentions the potential action of supporting the development of transitional and supportive housing units in every region (*Strategic Framework*, [Link](#)).

Under Pillar 2- *Prevention*, potential actions include (*Strategic Framework*, [Link](#)):

- creating regular job shadowing and cross-training opportunities that can be made available to all levels of government, NGOs and informal community helpers about local resources, pathways, and processes for service access.
- Training development must be community-informed and codeveloped across all partner groups and equivalencies should be considered when hiring GNWT positions, so jobs can be created for community experts that have informally been doing the work.
- Potential actions include taking a lessons-learned approach from previous models and creating information sharing amongst service providers that will also serve to strengthen interpersonal connections and expedite access to connected services.
- Creating a mechanism for barrier reporting, departmental or organizational accountability and follow-up support.

Under Pillar 5, the *Social Infrastructure and Enabling Environment*, initiatives include (*Strategic Framework*, [Link](#)):

- The creation of a GNWT wide *Family Violence Service Website* which is a ‘one-stop shop’ for service users (supporting survivors, children, and perpetrators) and service providers that could lead to the development of a portal where service users can access their own accounts and manage their own program applications/accounts.
- One of the potential actions included here is to develop plain-language resources for service users and providers to improve the accessibility of GNWT services.
- Another initiative is *One-Window Service Delivery: Whole of Government Approach*. Its goal is to integrate trauma informed, front-line service provision across the NWT, informed by a user-first culture in the delivery of services. The overall rationale is to combine human

and financial resources across government departments and to identify one government lead to ensure integrated supports are delivered in a consistent way across departments,

- Another initiative is to fix an *Identified 'Point Persons'* in the GNWT that can provide direction to front-line service providers in communities.

Individuals seeking support from the system should not face additional trauma, as this experience may push survivors away from seeking support and back into vulnerable situations. Therefore, the pillar of ***Responsive Justice System*** includes the following initiatives (***Strategic Framework, [Link](#)***):

- Prioritizing survivor-centric court proceedings (legal aid and prosecution) which has a potential action of legislative or policy review, aiming at lowering rates of survivor re-traumatization, survivor attrition, and leading to higher prosecution rates.
- Initiatives such as implementing *Restorative Justice Legislation* include potential action to restructure already existing restorative justice practices to fit the nuanced needs of potential family violence referrals.
- Implementing *Claire's Law*.
- Review of existing legislation that impacts areas within the family violence scope
- Expanding access of Domestic Violence Treatment Options Court so that it is available across the territory.
- Increasing access to perpetrator healing programs is another initiative. It will be prioritizing the provision of a wide range of healing programming for perpetrators serving custodial sentences, including families when appropriate, through specialized individual and family counselling / programming, transitional and safety planning prior to release/reunification for offenders leaving correctional placements and going back into their communities, inclusion of families in healing and release planning
- Maintaining and prioritizing legal aid access for survivors, including sexual assault survivors (***Strategic Framework, [Link](#)***).

Yukon

Under the pillar I- “*Support for Victims, Survivors and Their Families*”, of the *Bilateral Agreement* ([Link](#)), actions are:

- organizations that are part of the Yukon Women's Coalition will engage with each other, including collaboration with 2SLGBTQIA+ organizations, on gaps, capacity building, mentorship and strategic planning to stabilize the NGO GBV sector.
- These organizations will also work together to improve programs, services, and supports for people experiencing GBV and their families so these initiatives may better address the intersectional needs of diverse communities and populations.
- Funding is also available to the organizations that receive annual funding from the Women and Gender Equity Directorate (WGED). This new funding will support the enhancement of existing GBV initiatives or the creation of new GBV initiatives focused on support for victims, survivors, and their families.
- Enhanced funding will be available for the existing GBV or the creation of new GBV initiatives such as public awareness campaigns, engagement with men and boys, Indigenous-led prevention programs, training for professionals and community-based approaches to prevent GBV (which also falls under the pillar *Prevention*. Also, there will be actions on media literacy building under the *Prevention* pillar).

The actions on “*Responsive Justice System*” ([Link](#)) include:

- *Integrated Case Assessment teams* for high-risk intimate partner violence cases: this team will work together to collaborate on preventing recurrences of GBV. The partnership includes local agencies such as Victim Services, Corrections, Police, child protection, health, social services and other agencies who will work together to respond to referrals of suspected highest risk cases of domestic violence with a goal of increasing safety and supporting those involved including enhanced supports for victims and monitoring intervention, management and support for perpetrators (Interestingly, the action mentions IPV while the action details refer to DV).
- Implementation of a multi-disciplinary response, based on national Child and Youth Advocacy Center best practices, including space and dedicated resources to provide services for children/youth who are victims of or witness GBV.

- Development of culturally integrated justice programs for the *Therapeutic Court, Integrated Restorative Justice*, community based, and *First Nation Government* led diversion and the *Therapeutic Court* programs that will strengthen the justice system's response to GBV.
- Development of culturally relevant programming to address gender-based violence for women in territorial custody.

Social Infrastructure and Enabling Environment includes actions such as (***Bilateral Agreement***, [Link](#)):

- Development of safe, consistent and confidential transportation for victims of gender-based violence living in northern, rural and remote communities to flee their community, access shelters and/or medical services as required.
- More funding will be allotted to assist the transition homes in addressing capacity and to enhance existing or create new initiatives in response to GBV.

Lastly, the ***foundational*** action includes: Stakeholder engagement, research and knowledge mobilization towards implementation of the *National Action Plan to End GBV (GBV-NAP)* (***Bilateral Agreement***, [Link](#)).

Nunavut

Under **Pillar 1- *Support for Victims, Survivors and Their Families*** of the ***Bilateral Agreement*** ([Link](#)):

- One program allows for *Nunavut Victim Services* staff to receive as well as facilitate training and workshops to increase awareness of victims' needs, to reduce further victimization of GBV and other crime victims with service providers - including RCMP, social workers, nurses, mental health personnel, community counselors and shelter workers.
- The *Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner* training will allow for nurses in each community in Nunavut to provide sexual assault (SA) examination for victims of sexual assault.

Further actions under Pillar 2: **Prevention** are:

- *Training Conference on Concussions and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)* resulting from Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). In partnership with the Department of Justice, the Pan AM Clinic (Winnipeg) will facilitate a conference or workshops for service providers to understand the serious brain injuries that can be sustained by victims of IPV.
- Moreover, there will be increased funding efforts for GBV prevention for men and boys, women and girls, children and youth. A three-part territory-wide campaign will be held focusing on bringing awareness and creating change around GBV in Nunavut. The campaign will include awareness about what GBV is, how it affects people and communities, as well as about taking action by building safe communities and families, and ending GBV in Nunavut.
- Furthermore, *Healthy Relationships Videos* and *Breakup Awareness Campaign* will provide youths with an opportunity to discuss their understanding of healthy and unhealthy relationships.
- Lastly, ongoing coordination efforts led by the *Law Society of Nunavut* to continue bringing together organizations that are directly or indirectly involved in the prevention of violence in Nunavut, including GBV, to raise awareness collaboratively and for information sharing.

Under the pillar ***Responsive Justice System***, the Department of Justice, in partnership with the Law Society of Nunavut, is developing a toolkit (*Family Abuse Intervention Program Toolkit*) for front line service providers to assist victims of GBV with applications under the territorial family abuse legislation. Besides, the action aims to establish a resource handbook (*Law Society of Nunavut Resource Handbook*) that will be a tool that aims to facilitate change within the justice system to address GBV.

Under the Pillar ***Social Infrastructure and Enabling Environment*** actions are:

- Family Violence Shelter Capital Costs: Costs including renovations, permits, staff hiring and training for shelters in Gjoa Haven to support vulnerable people affected by GBV.
- Family Safety Shelter Core Funding include funding of 5 family safety shelters in Nunavut, to provide safety and shelter to women and children fleeing violence (***Bilateral Agreement***, [Link](#)).

Ontario

As stated in “Context” of the *Bilateral Agreement*, ([Link](#)) for Year 1, Ontario is investing \$18.7 million of *GBV-NAP* funding to help prevent and address violence against women, which supports approximately 400 gender-based violence service providers across the province to help them hire more staff, improve services and increase their ability to provide services to women and children.

Under Pillar 3- *Responsive Justice System*, there will be increased funding to help stabilize existing prevention and intervention programming to support male youth who are at-risk or who have committed GBV related offences, including providing responsive and culturally relevant approaches for Indigenous and Black youth (*Bilateral Agreement*, [Link](#)).

Under Pillar 4- *Indigenous led approaches (Bilateral Agreement, Link)* the province of ON :

- has increased funding to enhance existing violence prevention programs that aim to engage Indigenous men and youth in ending violence against Indigenous women and girls;
- and funding for Indigenous women’s leadership in their communities to work towards ending violence against Indigenous women (which also falls under pillar 2- *Prevention*).

Pillar 5- *Social Infrastructure and Enabling Environment* includes actions such as:

- funding for Women's Economic Security increase under which there is funding to help stabilize the *Women's Economic Security program* (WESP) and *Investing in Women's Futures* (IWF) program in order to support women who have experienced GBV and/or economic insecurity to rebuild their lives, enhance wellness, gain skills, and secure better jobs to address root causes of GBV (e.g., financial insecurity).
- Targeted funding to expand the *Women's Economic Security Program*, including for victims/survivors of GBV that means expanding the *Women's Economic Security Program* (WESP) to deliver skills-based training to increase women's income and labour force participation, in high demand sectors, while also offering specialized supports to participants who are survivors of or are at risk of GBV.
- Targeted funding to expand the *Investing in Women's Futures program* that will further expand the *Investing in Women's Futures (IWF) program* to provide a range of flexible programs and services for women, including those that have experienced or are at risk

of GBV, and are facing social and economic barriers. IWF supports women to develop employment readiness skills, helps them rebuild their lives and gain financial security and independence.

Notably, for *foundation* action, there will be the development of short-term solutions to workforce challenges at Gender-Based Violence emergency shelters, including staffing shortages, recruitment and retention challenges, and those unique to organizations serving rural & remote areas, Indigenous, Francophone and other marginalized groups (*Bilateral Agreement*, [Link](#)).

The *Action Plan- “Ontario-STANDS: Standing Together Against gender-based violence Now through Decisive actions, prevention, empowerment and Supports”* ([Link](#)) builds on important work such as addressing human trafficking through *Ontario’s Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy*,

- preventing and responding to sexual assaults through sexual violence policies at postsecondary institutions,
- building a comprehensive and connected mental health and addictions system that is sensitive to the needs of Ontario’s diverse population, including survivors of gender based violence, through *Ontario’s Roadmap to Wellness*
- providing supports for survivors and their children through violence against women services, the *Indigenous Healing and Wellness Strategy*, the ongoing work to modernize the child welfare system through *Ontario’s Child Welfare Redesign Strategy*.

There are 5 pillars mentioned in this *Action Plan* ([Link](#)).

Pillar I (*Support stabilization of critical programs*) (*Action Plan*, [Link](#)) has key actions such as:

- Investing in gender-based violence service providers to strengthen the foundation for critical programs and services and ease immediate service delivery pressures, including staffing and operational challenges. To support professionals to identify people at risk of gender-based violence and help prevent the escalation of violence, develop risk assessment and information sharing guidelines for professionals across sectors.
- To ensure people experiencing gender-based violence can reach help when they need it, no matter where they live in the province, invest in Ontario’s gender-based violence crisis

and victim support lines and support ongoing efforts to build a more responsive, sustainable crisis lines system.

- To improve access to prevention and early intervention supports for children and youth who have experienced family violence and to crisis and community supports for survivors in rural and remote communities, funding for *Children and Youth Services and Supports* and *Rural and Remote Services and Supports* will be annualized beginning in 2024–25.
- Enhance collaboration and coordination across sectors, such as violence against women and child protection services, by implementing violence against women service improvements including updates to shelter standards and procedures to better support women in crisis situations and connect them with supports.
- To help support victims and survivors of intimate partner violence/domestic violence, human trafficking, and child exploitation, invest more than \$4 million in 2023–24 in 45 projects through the Victim Support Grant program. The 2023–24 grant cycle will provide police services with the flexibility needed to adapt to their own community’s needs and to respond to the unique needs of victims and survivors.

Pillar II (*Prevent Gender Based Violence*) actions include:

- targeted training for professionals across sectors on providing culturally responsive and trauma-informed services and referrals (e.g., members of the judiciary, children’s aid societies, hospitals, community services),
- women’s economic empowerment initiatives,
- continued educational opportunities in elementary and secondary school on learning and developing skills for healthy relationships, including school-based resources.
- Continued mandatory learning in every grade about building healthy relationships, personal safety, and injury prevention. Students learn about what consent looks like and how to recognize exploitative behaviours, stand up for themselves and others, and get help if they feel uncomfortable, confused, or unsafe (*Action Plan, [Link](#)*).

Pillar III (Improve transitions to recovery) (*Action Plan, [Link](#)*): The goal of this pillar is to improve access to housing, child care, and mental health and addiction supports in order to aid survivors in their recovery and long-term stability. Key actions of pillar III are:

- In consultation with stakeholders and partners, Ontario is developing a guide to support Service Managers who administer the *Special Priority Policy* in relation to social housing and service providers who work with survivors of abuse and trafficking. The guide will include information on the Special Priority Policy rules, the lived experiences of survivors and available support and services, and training opportunities for Service Managers and service providers.
- In 2023–24, the province is committed to cost-matching an additional \$11.5 million in federal funding in 2023–24 under the *Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit* (COHB) program that the province delivers to provide direct financial assistance to survivors of gender-based violence to help with paying rent.
- Encourage service managers and indigenous program administrators to better support survivors based on local community need and housing and homelessness resources.
- Explore opportunities to enhance access to child care fee subsidies for survivors of gender-based violence.
- Update the *Child Care and Early ON Child and Family Centres* service management and funding guidelines to encourage *Early ON* centres to share information and facilitate connections with specialized community services (such as children’s rehabilitation services and gender-based violence support for families); coordinated service planning; public health; education; child care; and child welfare; as appropriate.
- Beginning in 2024–25, provide annualized enhancement funding to Transitional and Housing Support Program (THSP) providers. This will help survivors of intimate partner violence and human trafficking optimize housing benefits and support; access safe and affordable housing; and benefit from the services they need to rebuild their lives. Lastly, to assess options to improve access to independent legal advice for sexual assault survivors.

Pillar IV (*Support Safety and reduce recurrence*) (*Action Plan, [Link](#)*) has several actions.

- The Ministry of the Attorney General will work with *Partner Assault Response service* delivery partners to explore opportunities to introduce program improvements so that programming is more flexible and responsive to individualized client needs.

- The province will support the proposed legislative amendments led by the federal government to Bill C-48, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (bail reform)* to improve the bail system and public safety.
- Moreover, it will continue to support *Ontario's Justice Centres*. With four sites operating in London, Toronto Northwest, Toronto Downtown East, and Kenora, these innovative community courts bring together justice, health, and social services to address the root causes of crime, break the cycle of offending and improve community safety.

Pillar V (*Promote economic security*) (*Action Plan*, [Link](#)) has several actions.

- Expanding the *Women's Economic Security Program* to provide employment, pre-apprenticeship and entrepreneurship training for more low-income women, women at-risk of or who have experienced gender-based violence.
- Expanding the *Investing in Women's Futures (IWF) program* by adding one Francophone site to increase access to employment and training supports for Francophone women who are at-risk of or who have experienced gender-based violence.
- Increasing women's economic opportunities and remove barriers for women entrepreneurs and women working in sectors vital to Ontario's economy such as the skilled trades and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).
- Supporting an economic forum, hosted by Ontario Native Women's Association, to support Indigenous women's financial well-being. A range of potential topics include support for starting a business and self-employment, learning about the labour market and new career fields, and growing local community economies through collectives and financial literacy.
- Continuing investments through the *Indigenous Targeted Initiatives Fund* for innovative projects that expand access to postsecondary education and training for Indigenous learners, including for women and victims of violence, to support a transition to employment and broader economic well-being.

Quebec

In the *Integrated Strategy*, Quebec states a long list of actions (*Strategy*, [Link](#)):

1. Mount campaigns and support activities that raise awareness of sexual and domestic violence, making sure that they are tailored to the realities of certain groups and that some address perpetrators directly.
2. Pursue prevention and improve the support and guidance provided to schools and centres with regard to sexual violence.
3. Develop an educational tool in sexuality education to present content on the prevention of violence in a romantic context.
4. Support initiatives aimed at raising awareness of sexual violence among secondary school students.
5. Support projects to raise awareness of violence in romantic relationships among young people.
6. Renew the **SportBienEtre.ca** web platform, namely by adding one or more sections on sexual violence.
7. Support institutions of higher education in carrying out their obligations under the Act to prevent and fight sexual violence in higher education institutions.
8. Develop and centralize tools to support workplaces in dealing with domestic, family or sexual violence.
9. Set up a pilot project to offer prevention and psychosocial support services to people in the arts sector demonstrating behaviors at risk of sexual violence.
10. Consolidate the funding of services offered in specialized resources to intervene with persons who are victims of domestic violence
11. Develop new domestic violence support centres and emergency shelters.
12. Pursue the development of the network of second stage housing.
13. Implement mechanisms to reduce obstacles in the development of the network of shelters for women who are victims of domestic violence, based on established priorities.
14. Conduct pilot projects that integrate services in the areas of sexual violence and domestic violence, by supporting initiatives coming from the community.
15. Support the deployment of initiatives designed to facilitate the process for individuals who wish to leave prostitution.
16. Consolidate the funding of organizations for victims of sexual assault.
17. Equip and support specialized resources in counteracting domestic violence in connection with new information and communication technologies.

18. Consolidate the funding of organizations that work with men who demonstrate violent behaviour in situations of domestic violence.
19. Set aside 100 rent supplements under the *Programme de supplément au loyer d'urgence et de subvention aux municipalités* (emergency rent supplement and municipal grant program) for low-income women who are victims of domestic violence.
20. Continue to enhance the *Programme d'amélioration des maisons d'hébergement* (shelter improvement program).
21. Create a support office for services for persons who are victims of criminal offences.
22. Increase the number of staff within the office of the *Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions* who are assigned to files involving sexual violence
23. Protect persons who are victims of domestic or sexual violence through legislative changes.
24. Ensure the deployment of the *Programme témoin enfant et autres témoins vulnérables* (program for child witnesses and other vulnerable witnesses) across Québec, including Indigenous witnesses from a perspective of cultural safety.
25. Provide all persons who are victims of sexual and domestic violence with free emergency legal advice and representation, regardless of income and in all areas of law.
26. Conduct pilot projects for courts specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence, that include taking Indigenous realities into account.
27. Gradually implement the use of electronic tracking bracelets in cases involving domestic violence.
28. Increase the number of police assigned to matters involving domestic violence and sexual violence.
29. Support the initiatives of Indigenous police forces regarding support for persons who are victims of sexual violence and the supervision of perpetrators at all stages of the intervention continuum.
30. Conduct a pilot project with certain police forces on the use of a structured domestic violence risk assessment tool such as the *Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment* (ODARA).
31. Ensure the periodic updating of police practice in the area of domestic violence, including its appendices, and promote it to police forces.

32. Offer coherent and complementary bodies of work for training with regard to sexual and domestic violence that include addressing these forms of violence in Indigenous contexts and the realities faced by certain groups of people.
33. Support and equip stakeholders in the health and social services network working with senior victims of sexual and domestic violence.
34. Train school staff to intervene when students disclose sexual assault or problematic sexualized behaviours.
35. Develop expertise on domestic violence and exposure to domestic violence for youth protection workers and increase consultation on the subject.
36. Establish online training for the staff of designated centres on medico-social intervention for persons who are victims of sexual assault.
37. Update the knowledge of police forces on sexual and domestic violence.
38. Form a working committee to analyze the accessibility of services for persons who are victims of domestic violence who have disabilities and propose ways to improve.
39. Mandate the *Table de concertation nationale sur l'intervention policière en violence conjugale* (national table on police intervention in domestic violence) to carry out work to monitor and follow up on the conditions imposed by police officers and/or the court in cases of sexual and domestic violence.
40. Create an interdepartmental working committee to assess the possibility of implementing legislative provisions aimed at achieving the objectives of *Clare's Law*.
41. Continue the activities of the *Domestic Violence Death Review Committee*.
42. Form a working committee mandated to study how cases of sexual assault and sexual harassment are handled in the workplace.
43. Design and computerize a clinical-administrative data collection sheet on the services offered in designated centres for medico-social intervention with persons who are victims of sexual assault.
44. Identify the procedures for setting up an anonymous, confidential provincial help and referral line for people who have committed or are at risk of committing sexual assault or domestic violence.

45. Draw up a portrait of the services to be implemented by region or by local territory with regard to prevention among children and intervention with persons who are victims and perpetrators of sexual assault.
46. Produce and disseminate specific statistical portraits based on police data in the areas of sexual violence and violence committed in domestic contexts.
47. Analyze intimate partner violence experienced by women with disabilities.
48. Study the recourse to restorative justice by persons who are victims or perpetrators of domestic violence.
49. Conduct a second population survey aimed at documenting the phenomenon of domestic violence in Québec.
50. Advance knowledge of sexual violence experienced by female tenants and boarders.
51. Establish a reference framework for supervising intervention practices with male perpetrators of domestic violence, focusing on accountability.
52. Promote collaboration among organizations that help persons who are victims of sexual and domestic violence and organizations that support groups of people living in contexts of vulnerability to these forms of violence.
53. Collaborate with the *Regroupement des intervenants en matière d'agression sexuelle* (sexual assault stakeholders' group, RIMAS) to find and implement lasting solutions to attract and retain staff working with sexual perpetrators (*Strategy*, [Link](#)).

2. Similarities/Differences Across Provinces

A. Responsive Justice System

While most provinces have outlined actions under the *Responsive Justice System* pillar of the *National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence* (NAP to End GBV), British Columbia and Manitoba do not have any action under this pillar for the first year. However, British Columbia and Manitoba have taken distinct approaches in justice services that do not explicitly fall under this category. Moreover, Quebec's plan does not explicitly align with the *Responsive Justice System* pillar as outlined in the GBV-NAP, but it has one action outlined as responsive justice system in its strategy.

B. Focus on Law/Policy/Protocol

British Columbia places the most emphasis on their comprehensive law/policy change and implementation of these laws/policies/acts, highlighting broader systemic changes that integrate legal reforms, policy adjustments, and proactive programs addressing various aspects of GBV in a comprehensive manner. Provincial policy initiatives cover workplace regulations, education, family law, anti-racism, and even environmental impacts, making it the province with the most extensive legal and policy-focused approach to combating GBV. However, provinces such as Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, and Northwest Territories also put emphasis on this area. Newfoundland and Labrador recommends/plans to change but does not identify any direct action.

C. Training and Capacity Building for Staff

1. **Manitoba** will provide micro credential training for both individuals working within the shelter sector, as well as individuals interested in gaining employment within the shelter sector and will aim to build capacity.
2. **NL aims** to invest in regional capacity building in the areas of GBV prevention with a targeted focus on outreach to marginalized and high-risk population. Training has been proposed by the PACSW report to all contact points of the criminal justice system.
3. **BC** provides culturally responsive training to *First Nation Justice Council*. BC will also provide training for the staff of support shelters. A special fund supports community safety planning and capacity building to ensure the self-determination of Indigenous communities in addressing causes of GBV.
4. **SK** will develop and deliver a provincial training plan that enhances the province's capacity for delivering intervention treatment to assist front line personnel, training and capacity building initiatives for police, defense lawyers, government staff and other criminal justice professionals, as well as take action of supporting women in nontraditional roles with funding for 1A training.
5. **PEI** will provide trauma and violence informed training; develop an integrated training plan for GBV prevention; and training for professionals in justice system
6. **NS** will develop a domestic violence training framework as per *Standing Together* priority actions. In partnership with the Department of Justice, the province aims to provide a mix of in-person and virtual training sessions on GBV response and prevention.

7. **NB** will provide GBV training for professionals in the justice system. As well, GBV training for health, social development, and other public serving departments and organizations.
8. In **NWT**, the *GBV School Reconciliation and Innovation Coordinator* enhances training and curriculum for school staff and students. There are cross-training opportunities that can be made available to all levels of government, NGOs and informal community helpers about local resources, pathways, and processes for service access.
9. **YT** provides Indigenous-led prevention programs, training for professionals and community-based approaches to prevent GBV, as well as capacity building for organizations.
10. In **NU**: One program allows Nunavut Victim Services staff to receive as well as facilitate training and workshops. There are also programs on: Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner training; Training Conference on Concussions and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) resulting from Intimate Partner Violence (IPV); and training for shelters in Gjoa Haven to support vulnerable people.
11. **ON** provides targeted training for professionals across sectors on providing culturally responsive and trauma-informed services and referrals.
12. **QC** will equip and support specialized resources in counteracting domestic violence in connection with new information and communication technologies.

D. Housing for Survivors

Almost all the provinces have some sort of action for housing/transition housing/second stage housing/residential facilities. However, **YT and SK** do not mention any action.

E. Environment Related Actions

BC has research potential GBV-related prevention and mitigation initiatives that can be applied to industrial projects that undergo environmental assessment by the B.C. Environmental Assessment Office (EAO). **PEI** has planned developing protocols and actions for climate change impacts related to GBV.


F. Economic Actions




ON has funding for *Women's Economic Security* increase under which there is funding to help stabilize the *Women's Economic Security program* (WESP) and *Investing in Women's Futures*



(IWF) program to support women who have experienced GBV and/or economic insecurity to rebuild their lives, enhance wellness, gain skills, and secure better jobs to address root causes of GBV (e.g., financial insecurity). **SK** has *Annual Grant Fund* that supports community initiatives that target prevention and women in the economy. In **NL**, PACSW developed public awareness on issues impacting women’s economic security and prosperity. **PEI** is reviewing programs and policies with a view to increasing access to financial support for survivors of sexual violence.


G. Educational Institution Related Actions

NL has proposed action on violence and school safety; curriculum on consent, and on child and youth exploitation. **PEI** has planned ensuring K-12 education and resource supports for the whole school community on healthy relationships, sex education and promoting positive social norms, (e.g., curriculum, services offered via Student Well-Being Teams); and collaborates with post-secondary institutions to develop and implement a coordinated approach to prevention that addresses population risk factors. **NWT** have aimed at enhancing training and curriculum for school staff and students, promoting GBV prevention and intervention within educational settings. **NB** is expanding delivery of comprehensive healthy relationship education programming in schools. **BC** has the *Violence is Preventable* program (VIP) that is a free, confidential, school-based program for students in K-12. **ON** will have mandatory learning in every grade about building healthy relationships, personal safety and injury prevention. **QC** will support initiatives aimed at raising awareness of sexual violence among secondary school students.

 <p>The illustration shows a training session. A male presenter in a blue suit stands at the front, pointing to a large screen displaying a bar chart. Three female participants are seated at a table, looking towards the presenter. A yellow banner with a circular logo is visible on the right. The word 'Training' is written at the bottom of the illustration.</p>	<p>All provinces and territories, except AB, have incorporated training components into their gender-based violence (GBV) action plans. Micro-credential programs for shelter sector workers in MB; Culturally responsive training for First Nations justice personnel in BC; Trauma-informed education for justice professionals in PEI; NS is implementing a Domestic Violence Training Framework, while ON focuses on culturally sensitive and trauma-informed services for professionals across sectors.</p>
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	<p>While most provinces have outlined actions under the <i>Responsive Justice System</i> pillar of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence (NAP to End GBV), BC and MB do not have any action under this pillar for the first year.</p>
<p>Law/Policy/Acts</p> 	<p>BC places the most emphasis on their comprehensive law/policy change and implementation of these laws/policies/acts highlighting broader systemic changes that integrate legal reforms, policy adjustments, and proactive programs addressing various aspects of GBV in a comprehensive manner. Their policy initiatives cover workplace regulations, education, family law, anti-racism, and even environmental impacts, making it the province with the most extensive legal and policy-focused approach to combating GBV. However, provinces such as NS, ON, PEI, NWT also put emphasis on this area. NL and YT recommend/plan to change without any direct action.</p>
<p>Housing</p> 	<p>Almost all provinces have some sort of action for housing/transition housing/second stage housing/residential facilities. However, YT and SK do not have any mentioned actions.</p>

<p>Environment Related</p> 	<p>BC has research potential GBV-related prevention and mitigation initiatives that can be applied to industrial projects that undergo environmental assessment by the B.C. Environmental Assessment Office (EAO). PEI has planned developing protocols and actions for climate change impacts related to GBV.</p>
<p>Economic Actions</p> 	<p>ON has funding for <i>Women's Economic Security</i> increase under which there is funding to help stabilize the <i>Women's Economic Security program (WESP)</i> and <i>Investing in Women's Futures (IWF)</i> program to support women who have experienced GBV and/or economic insecurity to rebuild their lives, enhance wellness, gain skills, and secure better jobs to address root causes of GBV (e.g., financial insecurity). SK has <i>Annual Grant Fund</i> that supports community initiatives that target prevention and women in the economy. In NL, PACSW developed public awareness on issues impacting women's economic security and prosperity. PEI Reviewing programs and policies with a view to increasing access to financial support for survivors of sexual violence.</p>

Educational Institution Related	
	<p>NL has proposed action on violence and school safety, curriculum on consent, and child and youth exploitation. PEI has in its plans ensuring K-12 education and resource supports for the whole school community on healthy relationships, sex education and promoting positive social norms are up-to-date, evidence-based and reflect current best practices (e.g., curriculum, services offered via Student Well-Being Teams); Also it plans to collaborate with post-secondary institutions to develop and implement a coordinated approach to prevention that addresses population risk factors. NWT has aimed at enhancing training and curriculum for school staff and students, promoting GBV prevention and intervention within educational settings. NB is expanding delivery of comprehensive healthy relationship education programming in schools. BC has the <i>Violence is Preventable</i> program (VIP) that is a free, confidential, school-based program for students K-12. ON will have mandatory learning in every grade about building healthy relationships, personal safety and injury prevention. QC will support initiatives aimed at raising awareness of sexual violence among secondary school students.</p>

Key Institutional Action Checklist

	Training	Responsive	Act/Polic/	Housing	Environmental	Economic	Educational
BC	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
MB	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
AB	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
SK	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗

QC	✓	✓	×	✓	×	×	✓
ON	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓
PEI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NS	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×
NB	✓	✓	×	✓	×	×	✓
NL	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓
NW	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓
YT	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓	×
NU	✓	✓	×	✓	×	×	×

3. Uniqueness/Key Highlights in Provincial Approaches

BC:

- BC introduced the *Intimate Images Protection Act* (2023) and focused on environmental assessments to integrate GBV-related prevention into industrial projects and *WorkSafe BC's updated regulations* mandate a legal obligation for employers to address violence in the workplace, as a matter of occupational safety.
- *BC's Employment Standards Act* offers survivors of domestic or sexual violence up to five days of paid leave and additional unpaid leave, expanding cellular service to make travel

safer on more than 1,000 kilometers of highway through rural and remote communities in B.C.

MB:

- Trauma-based mental health and addiction services;
- "*Power of Being You*" youth prevention program;
- *intersectional feminist data framework for GBV*;
- *Red Road to Healing (RRH)* program;
- other gender-based violence focused cultural healing programs;
- forensic nursing services for child and youth especially;
- micro credential training for staff at Red River College Polytech.

SK:

- Development of educators and the delivery of programming for youth that focuses on recognizing GBV and sexual harassment as a men's issue;
- training and capacity building initiatives for police, defense lawyers, government staff and other criminal justice professionals;
- *Right to Competent and Trauma Informed Counsel*;
- developing support for victims throughout sexual offence trials regarding the admissibility of evidence of a complainant's sexual history and the production of third-party records;
- supporting women in nontraditional roles with funding for 1A training.

PEI:

- Climate change adaptation linked to GBV prevention strategies;
- advocates for victim-friendly spaces, such as updated interview rooms and short-term counseling;
- an *Adult Sexual Violence Protocol*, modeled after the *Child Sexual Abuse Protocol*, ensuring specialized responses for adult survivors;
- establishing a *Police Response to Sexual Violence Protocol*
- and enhancing measures in licensed establishments to reduce the risk of sexual violence.

NL:

- The *Right Here, Right Now Counselling* program allows individuals to access counselling free of charge;

- updating the current e-course (*Empowering them*) and enhancing promotion of the e-course by establishing partnerships with private and public sector partners;
- resources to be developed to target technology-facilitated GBV;
- a collaborative approach in exploring the expansion of support and resources through the *Intimate Partner Violence Intervention Court*, community programming and counseling services.
- Knowledge Mobilization with Regional Working Groups to End GBV.

NS:

- Bill 482, *An Act to Declare Intimate Partner Violence an Epidemic*, aims to provide a mix of in-person and virtual training sessions on GBV response and prevention.
- Action is planned to improve access to reliable technological tools (e.g., computers, cell phones) in rural and urban areas and work with *Getting Everyone Online*.
- The province claimed to explore system level change in the evaluation data in *Standing together*. Notably, since *Standing Together* began, several policies have been updated, and relevant legislation has been amended.

NB:

- Awareness hub,
- amalgamating existing campaigns and creating a centralized access point for GBV related information;
- assessing current status and identifying enhancements to perpetrator programming;
- enhancing and implementing additional GBV training for police, lawyers, and court officials.

NWT:

- *Regional System Navigators for GBV Services* initiative seeks to integrate services across various sectors.
- *GBV School Reconciliation and Innovation Coordinator* enhances training and curriculum for school staff and students.
- Creating regular *job shadowing* and cross-training opportunities
- NWT wide *Family Violence Service Website*: A ‘one-stop shop’ for service users (supporting survivors, children, and perpetrators).

- Trauma informed, front-line service provision across the NWT, informed by a user-first culture in the delivery of services.
- Another initiative is to fix an *Identified 'Point Persons' in the GNWT* that can provide directions to front-line service providers in communities;
- implementing restorative justice legislation.

YT:

- 2SLGBTQI+ Inclusion Action Plan and housing-first model for GBV survivors,
- engagement with men and boys,
- Indigenous-led prevention programs,
- training for professionals and community-based approaches,
- Integrated Case Assessment teams for high-risk intimate partner violence cases.

NU:

- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner training,
- Training Conference on Concussions and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) resulting from Intimate Partner Violence (IPV),
- Healthy Relationships Videos and Breakup Awareness Campaign, is developing a toolkit (Family Abuse Intervention Program Toolkit) for front line service providers with applications under the territorial family abuse legislation. Besides, the action aims to establish a resource handbook.

ON:

- Support services include investments in shelters and crisis-response programs, particularly in rural and remote communities, to ensure accessible assistance for survivors.
- Training programs are being developed for professionals across sectors to provide culturally responsive and trauma-informed services,
- Economic empowerment initiatives, such as the *Women's Economic Security Program* and *Investing in Women's Futures* and offer skills-based training and support,
- implementing programs targeting men and boys,
- proposed legislative amendments led by the federal government to Bill C-48, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code* (bail reform) to improve the bail system and public safety.
- Ontario's Roadmap to Wellness.

QC:

- Electronic tracking bracelets for DV offenders and specialized GBV courts.
- Support for individuals who wish to leave prostitution,
- conduct pilot projects for courts specialized in sexual violence and domestic violence taking Indigenous realities into consideration,
- second population survey.

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Appendix

1. Abbreviations

ACIS- Awakening Cultural Identity and Spirit

ADHRN- Atlantic Domestic Homicide Review Network

BIPOC- Black, Indigenous and People of Color

CASEY- Coalition Against the Sexual Exploitation of the Youth

CCFWE- Canadian Center for Women’s Empowerment

CHAT- Coordinated Housing Access Team

CIOs- Community Intervention Orders

CJOW- Community Justice Outreach Worker

DV- Domestic Violence

EAO- Environmental Assessment Office

EPOs- Emergency Protection Orders

FAIA- Family Abuse Intervention Act

FGM/C- Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting

FNJC- First Nations Justice Council

FV- Family Violence

FWBp- Family Well Being program

GBV- Gender Based Violence

GBVCC- Gender-Based Violence Committee of Cabinet

GBV-NAP- National Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence

HIFIS- Homeless Individuals and Families Information System

ICIVA- Interministerial Committee on Interpersonal Violence and Abuse

IPV- Intimate Partner Violence

IWF- Investing in Women's Futures

MNBC- Métis Nation British Columbia

MMIWG2S+- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Two Spirit, Transgender, and Gender-Diverse+ peoples

NAP- National Action Plan

ODARA- Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment

PACSW- Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women

PWD- Persons With Disabilities

RCMP- Royal Canadian Mounted Police

SANE- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner

SART- Sexualized Assault Response Team

STEM- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

VS/VAW- Victim Services/Violence Against Women

WAGE- Women and Gender Equity

WESP- Women's Economic Security Program

YESA- Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment

YWCA-Young Women's Christian Association of Canada

2SLGBTQIA+- Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, inclusive of people who use additional terminologies

2S+-Two-Spirit and other sexual and gender identities

2. Definitions

A. Definitions from Federal Sources

Emotional / Psychological abuse

Use of words or actions to control or frighten a family member or intimate partner, or to lower their self-respect and self-esteem. It includes, but is not limited to insults, belittling, constant humiliation, intimidation, threats to harm, threats to take away children, harm or threats to harm pets.([Link](#))

Family violence

Any form of abuse or neglect that a child or adult experiences from a family member, or from someone with whom they have an intimate relationship whether current or former. ([Link](#))

Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C)

When the labia majora, labia minora or clitoris of a girl or woman is excised, infibulated or mutilated, in whole or in part for non-medical reasons. FGM/C is a form of aggravated assault and is a crime in Canada. It is also an offence to take a child out of Canada for the purpose to have FGM/C performed in another country.([Link](#))

Financial abuse (also referred to as economic abuse)

Occurs when an individual uses money, assets or property to control or exploit another individual ([Link](#))

GBV

According to *NAP to End GBV*, everyone has the right to live free from violence. However, many people in Canada continue to face violence every day because of their gender, gender expression, gender identity or perceived gender. This is referred to as gender-based violence (GBV). GBV can take many forms, including physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, and financial abuse, as well as technology-facilitated violence ([Link](#))

“Honour” based violence

Term used internationally and refers to premeditated violence committed against a family member, usually female, who is perceived to have brought shame or dishonour to her family by engaging in, or rumoured to have engaged in, disapproved conduct, such as having sexual relationships outside marriage. Some people in collectivist communities believe that violence will restore family honour. HBV can constitute a range of crimes such as forced confinement, assault, and killing. HBV has been treated with severity in Canadian courts. HBV is a controversial term that may fuel discrimination against collectivist communities, giving the false impression that violence is more prevalent among those who live by honour codes. In fact, gender-based violence occurs in all communities, all around the world ([Link](#))

Human trafficking (also referred to as trafficking in persons)

Human trafficking, also referred to as trafficking in persons, involves recruiting, transporting, transferring, receiving, holding, concealing, harbouring, or exercising control, direction or influence over a person, for the purpose of exploitation, generally for sexual exploitation or forced labour ([Link](#))

Intimate Partner Violence (also referred to as domestic violence or spousal violence)

Physical, sexual, emotional (psychological) or financial harm done by a current or former intimate partner(s) or spouse(s). Intimate partner violence can happen in a marriage, common-law or dating relationship; in a heterosexual or LGBTQ2 (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and Two-Spirit) relationship; at any time in a relationship, including after it has ended; and, whether or not partners live together or are sexually intimate with one another ([Link](#))

Physical abuse

Intentional use or threatened use of physical force against a family member or intimate partner. It includes, but is not limited to, pushing, hitting, cutting, punching, slapping, shoving, and strangulation ([Link](#))

Sexual Assault

Any unwanted sexual activity involving physical contact (including kissing, fondling, and sexual intercourse) ([Link](#))

Sexual Exploitation

Sexual abuse of children and youth through the exchange of sex or sexual acts for drugs, food, shelter, protection, or other basics of life, and/or money. Sexual exploitation includes involving children and youth in creating pornography and sexually explicit websites ([Link](#))

Sexual Harassment

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favours, and other forms of verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment can involve an abuse of power and is often used as a way of controlling or intimidating someone ([Link](#))

Sexual Violence

Sexual act without consent, attempt to obtain a sexual act, threat to obtain a sexual act, or unwanted sexual comments or advances, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim / survivor in any setting, including but not limited to home and work([Link](#))

Technology-Facilitated Violence (also referred to as cyberviolence)

Range of behaviors that use technology to facilitate virtual and/or in-person harm. The intent of technology-facilitated violence is to threaten, harass, bully, embarrass, assault, extort, coerce, torment or socially exclude another person by using technology ([Link](#))

B. Definitions from Provincial Sources

PEI:

Sexual violence is a term that describes any sexual act committed against another person without their consent. It can be both physical and psychological in nature and includes sexual assault, rape, sexual coercion and sexual harassment. It is both created and perpetuated by other systems of violence, such as colonialism, racism, sexism, misogyny, ableism, homophobia, and transphobia.

Sexual Assault is any sexual contact made against a person without their consent. It can take different forms (e.g., intercourse, groping, putting your mouth on someone). It is a crime in the Criminal Code of Canada with three levels of severity. **Sexual Harassment** refers to any

unwelcome sexual comments or physical contact. It is behavior that creates a hostile environment, and behavior that inappropriately promises reward or punishment for complying with sexual acts. **Sexual Coercion** is unwanted sexual contact that happens when you are pressured, tricked, Sexual Coercion threatened, or forced in a nonphysical way. **Gender Based Violence** is the violence that is committed against someone based on their gender identity, gender expression or perceived gender ([Link](#))

Family violence is known by many names: child maltreatment, child abuse, incest, child exposure to domestic violence, intimate partner violence, spousal violence, woman abuse, domestic violence, sibling abuse, parent abuse, elder abuse, and abuse of older adults. Family violence can affect anyone, from any demographic: cultural, national and ethnic origin, socio-economic status, education, gender, age and physical or mental ability. Family violence can take many forms: harassment, verbal abuse, threats, financial abuse, psychological abuse, emotional abuse, spiritual abuse, neglect, damage to property, injury to pets, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and homicide. Family violence can happen between current and former intimate partners (married and unmarried couples, including same-sex couples, and dating partners); a legal guardian or parent and child; blood, marriage or adoptive relatives; and a live-in caregiver and care recipient. Family violence hurts. It can cause physical and psychological harm. Family violence violates the victim's rights and freedoms ([Link](#))

NS:

Abuse takes many forms. It can include someone hitting their partner, sexual abuse, controlling their partner's money or behaviour, controlling them emotionally, or coercive control. More than one type of abuse can happen at the same time. It may be a single act or a series of acts forming a pattern. Children and young people may be harmed by being exposed to abuse in adult relationships, being the direct victims of violence, or both. **Abuse is also called family violence, domestic violence, or intimate partner violence.** In this book, NS uses the word "abuse."
Psychological or emotional abuse, including: controlling someone, threats to harm children or family, a pet, or belongings, damage to belongings, hurting or killing pets, keeping someone from having control over their own money or from making their own decisions, following or stalking a person, bullying or picking on someone, online harassment, taking someone's phone, or reading their emails and text messages, lying about someone to their pastor or imam or rabbi, gaslighting,

embarrassing someone on purpose. **Verbal abuse**, including: yelling and screaming, name-calling, making threats, criticizing **Physical abuse**, including: pushing, hitting, punching, choking/strangling, kicking, biting, forced confinement (not letting someone leave), keeping someone from having things they need, like food, trying to physically abuse someone. **Sexual abuse**, including: unwanted sexual touching, forcing someone to have sex, unwanted violence during sex, such as choking a person without their consent, trying to sexually abuse someone. ([Link](#))

Coercive Control: Coercive control is behaviour by a current or former partner or family member that makes someone fear they will be physically harmed, causes their mental health to decline, or causes the victim such distress that their day-to-day activities are negatively affected ([Link](#))

Domestic violence is deliberate and purposeful violence, abuse, and intimidation by one person against another in an intimate relationship. It may be a single act or a series of acts forming a pattern of abuse. Domestic violence can occur in any relationship, however, women are primarily the victims and men are primarily the perpetrators. Children and young people experience harm by being exposed to violence in adult relationships, being the direct victims of violence, or a combination of the two ([Link](#))

NB:

Domestic, intimate partner violence: **Domestic violence** is defined as any violent, threatening, dominating, coercive or controlling behavior between family members, and includes intimate partner violence between past or present partners. Domestic, intimate partner violence also includes the deprivation of food, clothing, medical attention, shelter, transportation or other necessities of life ([Link](#))

Domestic, intimate partner violence can take many different forms: **Physical abuse** includes hitting, pinching, slapping, pushing, punching, kicking, burning, stabbing or shooting. It may also include threats to cause harm; **Psychological abuse**, sometimes referred to as **emotional or verbal abuse**, includes put-downs, name calling, jealousy, isolation from family and friends, and threats to leave the relationship or to commit suicide if the victim does not cooperate; **Sexual abuse** includes unwanted touching or sexual activity. It may include control over birth control, forced pregnancies, abortions or the transmission of Sexually Transmitted Infections; **Financial abuse**

occurs when an individual uses finances to control another individual. This could include forcing a person to hand over all or part of their salary or by denying someone access to their own finances; **Spiritual abuse** occurs when an individual uses religious or spiritual matters to control their partner. Examples of spiritual abuse include forcing someone to follow a particular faith or to give up their religion.

Sexual violence is any harmful behaviour perceived by the victim to be of a sexual nature which is unwanted and takes place without consent or understanding of the victim. Sexual violence encompasses a continuum of behaviors, for example, street harassment, coercion, sexual harassment at work, intimate partner sexual violence, sexual assault, sexual exploitation and other behaviors. Some are criminal in nature (e.g., sexual assault), while others are non-criminal but steeped in attitudes that condone and normalize the behavior ([Link](#))

Honour-based violence is built on a false patriarchal belief that women's bodies and actions are under male control to protect their family's honour. A victim may face violence or even death for a range of behaviours, including having a relationship with a male or, in more extreme situations, refusing forced marriage. This issue is not specific to any individual faith or culture and has been observed across various communities ([Link](#))

Human trafficking is the exploitation of individuals for profit. Traffickers use various forms of control, including physical force, threats, and psychological manipulation, to maintain power over their victims. Sex trafficking is a human trafficking/crime where victims are recruited, transported, or held against their will for sexual exploitation ([Link](#))

SK:

Violence, Abuse & Interpersonal Violence: **Violence** is when there is an unlawful exercise of physical force that may result in criminal charges or physical and/or sexual abuse. **Abuse** is when someone in a caring relationship does or says things to gain control over another person by hurting that person or causing feelings such as fear, anxiety, nervousness, guilt, helplessness or worthlessness. **Interpersonal violence** and abuse refers to violence and abuse that occurs between people who know each other. It can occur within or outside a family setting. Women, men and children can all be victims of interpersonal violence and abuse. Older family members can be abused by their adult children and other caretakers. Interpersonal violence and abuse may take

many different forms and include physical abuse, mental and emotional abuse, sexual abuse, intimidation, financial abuse and threat ([Link](#))

ON:

Gender-based violence refers to harmful acts of physical, economic, sexual, emotional or psychological abuse based on someone's gender and unequal power dynamics. It can take the form of human trafficking, sexual assault and exploitation, femicide, stalking, intimate partner violence and family violence ([Link](#))

Intimate Partner Violence: The World Health Organization (WHO) defines intimate partner violence as behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including acts of physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviours. This definition covers violence by both current and former spouses and partners. Intimate partner violence in all forms is unacceptable. Everyone has the right to live in safety and with dignity, free from intimidation and the threat of violence ([Link](#))

Sexual violence is a broad term that describes any violence, physical or psychological, carried out through sexual means or by targeting sexuality. Sexual violence takes different forms and can include: sexual abuse, sexual assault, rape, incest, childhood sexual abuse, rape during armed conflict, sexual harassment, stalking, indecent or sexualized exposure, degrading sexual imagery, voyeurism, cyber harassment, trafficking, sexual exploitation ([Link](#))

Family violence is any violent or threatening behaviour by a family member toward another family member, that is part of a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour, or that causes the other family member to fear for their own safety or for the safety of someone else. In the case of children, this includes direct and indirect exposure to that conduct. Examples of family violence include: actual or threatened physical abuse, sexual abuse, psychological or emotional abuse, cultural abuse, economic or financial abuse, threats to kill or harm any person or animal, killing or harming an animal, threats to damage property or actually damaging property ([Link](#))

QC:

Violence against women can include different treatment based on gender stereotypes and through subtle control of women's lives, bodies and sexuality. This violence stems from historically unequal power relations between women and men. It represents an issue that concerns the whole

population as it constitutes an infringement upon a person's rights and freedoms. Violence against women can manifest in various ways. The best known are domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual exploitation and femicide, but violence against women is also: sexual harassment in the workplace, honour-based violence, genital mutilation and cutting, reproductive coercion, anti-feminist remarks and attacks, sexist jokes, harassment on the streets, online hostility, etc. ([Link](#))

Psychological violence is generally used to gain or maintain control over someone. There is no respect, and consent is obtained in an unacceptable manner. The common thread in all strategies that rely on psychological violence is that one person acts in an abusive way toward another person ([Link](#))

Verbal violence is used to intimidate, humiliate or control a person or a group of people. It can also occur in all types of interactions (between strangers, neighbours, colleagues, friends, spouses or partners) and in relationships of authority (boss-employee, teacher-student, coach-athlete). This form of violence can also be a forerunner to physical violence ([Link](#))

Economic violence is the least understood form of violence, even though it is rampant. A person who is subjected to economic violence loses their financial independence, even if they work outside the home and earn a good salary. Economic violence can occur between people who are equally wealthy or poor, just as it can between people with unequal incomes ([Link](#))

Physical violence can be used against a person, a group, objects, animals or premises. It might escalate from banging a fist on a table to destroying an entire set of furniture. It might also escalate from pushing or shoving to homicide. Escalation is what makes physical violence extremely dangerous ([Link](#))

“**Domestic violence** is characterized by a series of repetitive actions, which generally occur in an upward trend. Specialists call this progression the “escalation of violence.” In the perpetrator, it proceeds according to a cycle defined by successive phases marked by the rise of tension, aggression, disempowerment, remission and reconciliation. These phases correspond to the victim's fear, anger, feeling that they are responsible for the violence and, lastly, hope that the situation will improve. These phases are not always all present and do not always follow each other in this order. Domestic violence includes psychological, verbal, physical and sexual assaults as well as acts of economic domination. It does not result from a loss of control, but rather constitutes

a chosen means of dominating the other person and asserting one's power over them. It can be experienced in a marital, extramarital or romantic relationship, and at all ages and stages of life ([Link](#))

Sexual Violence: The concept of sexual violence as used in the context of the Integrated Strategy to Counteract Violence refers, in particular, to the problems of sexual assault, sexual exploitation and sexual harassment, including their various manifestations. Rooted in a dynamic of power relations, exposing persons who are victims to multiple consequences and violating fundamental rights, these forms of violence have several points in common. However, this strategy takes specific aspects into account and proposes both actions that concern sexual violence in general and actions relating, in particular, to at least one of these problems ([Link](#))

“**Sexual Assault** is a sexual act, with or without physical contact, committed by an individual without the consent of the victim or, in some cases, and especially when children are involved, through emotional manipulation or blackmail. It is an act that subjects another person to the perpetrator's desire through an abuse of power, the use of force or coercion, or implicit or explicit threats. Sexual assault violates the victim's fundamental rights, including the right to physical and psychological integrity and security of the person ([Link](#))

Sexual Exploitation According to the definition of sexual exploitation presented in the Strategy to Prevent and Counteract Sexual Violence and reiterated in the *Plan d'action gouvernemental 2021-2026 en réponse aux recommandations de la Commission spéciale sur l'exploitation sexuelle des mineurs – Briser le cycle de l'exploitation sexuelle*, sexual exploitation is a complex problem, in particular because of the different contexts in which it can occur, e.g. prostitution, erotic massage parlours, strip clubs, and so on, and the attendant criminal activity such as procuring, human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, the purchase of sexual services, and so on. Through its numerous forms, sexual exploitation usually implies a situation, a context or a relationship in which one individual takes advantage of the vulnerability or the dependency of a person, or an unequal power relationship, in order to use the person's body for sexual purposes for their personal benefit. The benefit can be pecuniary, social or personal, such as sexual gratification, or any other form of advantage. The victims of sexual exploitation are deemed to include the victims of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Furthermore, it is recognized that prostitutes are at a high risk of being the victims of sexual exploitation ([Link](#))

Sexual Harassment: Based on the definition of psychological harassment in the workplace (which includes sexual harassment) set out in the Act respecting labour standards, sexual harassment can be described in terms of the following: any vexatious behaviour in the form of repeated and hostile or unwanted conduct, verbal comments, actions or gestures of a sexual nature, that affects a person's dignity or integrity and that results in a harmful environment for the person. A single instance serious misconduct can also be considered harassment if it has lasting negative consequences for the person. Many verbal comments, gestures or actions can constitute sexual harassment. It can be non-verbal behaviour, such as insistent stares or whistles, or even verbal comments, such as sexist or lewd jokes, questions about a person's private life, unwanted advances, threats, etc. Sexual harassment can also be physical, manifesting itself in brushing, touching or other acts of a sexual nature ([Link](#))

AB:

Gender-based violence is violence that is committed against someone because of their gender identity, gender expression or perceived gender.

Family Violence: It is any use of physical or sexual force, actual or threatened, within a relationship. It can happen many times or just once, and the abuse happens through the use of assault or controlling behaviour. It includes intimate partner violence, which happens between people who are or were previously dating, common-law or married. They could also have had a child together without being in a relationship.

Sexual Violence: It is an act committed against someone's personal and sexual boundaries without that person's freely given consent. It can be physical or non-contact, affects all ages and genders, and the person committing the act may be known or a stranger. It can include sexual assault, harassment and exploitation – and is against both civil and criminal law.

Sexual Exploitation: It happens when a person in a position of trust or authority uses that power to start or attempt sexual activity with another person. It can be through direct or indirect and may include touching, violence, coercion or the use of threats.

Female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C): It includes all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia – or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. It is sometimes called ‘female circumcision.’

Human Trafficking: It is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, holding, concealing, harbouring or receipt of a person to take advantage of or exploit. Examples of this include: any form of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services (includes slavery or practices similar to slavery), the removal of a human organ or tissue ([Link](#))

BC:

Gender-based violence: Gender-based violence is violence committed against someone based on their gender, gender identity, gender expression or perceived gender, and can be verbal, physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, financial or online. Gender-based violence manifests in many ways, such as intimate partner violence, sexual harassment, sexual assault, child abuse, sex trafficking, coercion, non-consensual disclosure of intimate images and other forms of technology facilitated violence, femicide and homicide, among many other forms of gender-based violence. People who face overlapping experiences of sexism, misogyny, racism, colonialism, transphobia, homophobia, poverty, stigma, ableism, ageism and/or criminalization (among other systems of discrimination and inequity) are at greater risk of being targeted with gender-based violence.

Intersectional/Intersectionality: Kimberlé Crenshaw, an American scholar and civil rights advocate, introduced the term ‘intersectionality’ in 1989. It considers ways in which systems of inequity based on gender identity/expression, race, ethnicity, Indigeneity, sexual orientation, disability, class and other forms of discrimination ‘intersect’ to create unique dynamics and effects.

Intimate partner violence: Intimate partner violence describes physical, sexual or psychological harm by a current or former intimate partner or spouse. This is also known as domestic abuse or spousal violence and is a major public health concern that destroys lives, devastates families and affects communities around the world. The term domestic violence is sometimes used interchangeably with the term intimate partner violence, but domestic violence can also mean child

or elder abuse that may not be gender-based violence. Domestic violence is also used in this action plan where it is a term defined in legislation or in the name of a program or service.

Sexualized violence: Sexualized violence is any non-consensual, unwanted, actual, attempted, or threatened act or behaviour that is carried out through sexual means or by targeting a person's sex, sexual identity, or gender identity or expression. This act or behaviour may or may not involve physical contact, and it can take place through any form of communication. Sexualized violence is the preferred term to describe these behaviours, but the term sexual assault or sexual violence is used on this action plan where it is a term defined in legislation or it is the name of a program or service.

Technology-facilitated sexualized violence: Any form of sexualized violence that occurs online is considered technology-facilitated sexualized violence. This term “refers to a wide range of unacceptable, violent and abusive behaviours, where technology is used as a central tool to carry out these behaviours.” These behaviours can include online sexual harassment, online threats of sexual violence, trolling, non-consensual distribution of intimate images, and many other harmful behaviours that occur online and/or are facilitated using technology ([Link](#)).

MB:

Emotional Abuse: When a person uses words or actions to control, frighten isolate or take away another person's self-respect. Emotional abuse is sometimes called psychological abuse. It can include: put downs, name calling or insults; constantly yelling at someone; keeping someone from seeing family or friends; making fun of someone's religion or faith, not letting a person practice it (spiritual abuse); controlling what someone wears, where someone goes, who someone can see (in the case of adults); preventing someone from going out, taking classes or working if the person wants to (in the case of adults); threatening to have a person deported if the person doesn't behave a certain way; making threats to harm another person; destroying a person's belongings, hurting a person's pets or threatening to do so; or bullying (intimidating or humiliating someone, including on the internet). Some forms of emotional abuse are crimes: stalking, threats to harm someone, harassing someone on the phone, intimidating someone on purpose or counselling (advising)

someone to commit suicide. Many other forms of emotional abuse are not crimes, but they often have long-term negative effects and sometimes lead to criminal acts later on.

Family Violence: Any form of abuse or neglect that a child or adult experiences from a family member, or from someone with whom they have an intimate relationship. It is an abuse of power by one person to hurt and control someone who trusts and depends on them.

Femicide: The intentional killing of women because they are women.

Financial Abuse: When someone uses money or property to control or exploit another person. It can involve taking someone's money or property without permission; withholding someone's money so the person cannot pay for things; making someone sign documents to sell things that the person doesn't want to sell; forcing someone to change his/her/their will; or not letting someone have access to family money to meet the person's or the person's children's basic needs. Most forms of financial abuse are crimes, including theft and fraud. Financial abuse can also include situations where one person intends to financially exploit another, as in cases of dowry fraud.

Gender Based Violence: Violence that is committed against someone based on their gender identity, gender expression or perceived gender. Gender-based violence can take many forms: cyber, physical, sexual, psychological, emotional and economic. Neglect and harassment are also forms of gender-based violence. Violence and abuse can have negative effects that span generations, and this often leads to cycles of violence and abuse within families and sometimes whole communities. Gender-based violence includes physical acts as well as words, actions and attempts to control to degrade, control, humiliate, intimidate, coerce, deprive, threaten or harm another person. Examples of gender-based violence/abuse includes physical abuse; sexual abuse (adults); sexual abuse (children); emotional and psychological abuse; criminal harassment or stalking; technology-assisted violence; neglect; so-called "honour" violence; early or forced marriage; financial abuse. Gender-based violence is linked to sexist attitudes and behaviours and made worse by other forms of discrimination such as racism, ableism, classism, homophobia, transphobia and biphobia. Discrimination, prejudice and intolerance can also make it hard for survivors from diverse populations to access appropriate support and services.

Honor Violence: So-called "honour" violence happens when family members believe that the victim has behaved in ways that will bring shame or dishonour to the family. The violence can be

perpetrated by a partner or family member, and from the perpetrator's perspective, is used to protect the family honour and restore the family's reputation.

Intersectional: The concept of 'intersectionality' has been defined as "intersectional oppression [that] arises out of the combination of various oppressions which, together, produce something unique and distinct from any one form of discrimination standing alone...." An intersectional approach takes into account the historical, social and political context and recognizes the unique experience of the individual based on the intersection of all relevant grounds. This approach allows the particular experience of discrimination, based on the confluence of grounds involved, to be acknowledged and remedied.

Intimate partner Violence: (Sometimes referred to as domestic violence) is physical, sexual, or psychological harm that happens in intimate relationships, including marriages, common-law partnerships, or dating relationships. Neglect and harassment are also forms of intimate partner violence. It can take place while the relationship is ongoing or after it has ended. Such violence can occur in opposite- or same-sex relationships and can be one-sided or involve both partners.

Non-consensual distribution of images: In Canada, it is illegal to share intimate images without consent. An "intimate image" is a visual recording of a person made by any means (e.g. picture or video) in which the person is nude or exposing his or her genitals, rear end or breasts, or is engaged in explicit sexual activity if: at the time the recording is made, there were circumstances that gave rise to a reasonable expectation of privacy (e.g. a picture taken by a person while in their bedroom); and at the time the recording is shared without consent, the person who is in the recording still has a reasonable expectation of privacy. It is expected that if the person who is in the image had a reasonable expectation of privacy when the recording was made the person would retain the expectation of privacy, as long as s/he does not subsequently share the recording with others or post it online, etc.

Physical Abuse: The intentional use of force against a person without that person's consent. It can cause physical pain or injury that may last a long time. It includes: pushing or shoving; hitting, slapping or kicking; pinching or punching; strangling or choking; stabbing or cutting; shooting; throwing objects at someone; burning; holding someone down for someone else to assault, or locking someone in a room or tying them down.

Sexual Violence: A broad concept that includes a range of acts in which people can be sexually violated. Examples include all forms of sexual harassment, forced, actual or attempted sexual intercourse, unwanted sexual contact, sexual assault, indecent or sexualized exposure, unwanted sexual comments, sexual molestation, sexual abuse of children, genital mutilation, forced sexual initiation, and sexual exploitation and trafficking with sexual purpose, among others. It can manifest as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Technology Assisted Violence: Violence that is committed, facilitated, and aggravated through the use of contemporary technologies. It includes, but not limited to: harassment, cyberstalking, luring, trafficking, non-consensual distribution of intimate images, non-consensual pornography via software applications (i.e. using an AI enabled program to change the face of a person in a pornographic video recording), doxing (i.e. searching for and publishing private or identifying information about an individual on the internet with malicious intent), and mobbing (i.e. targeted campaign against an individual by a concerted group of perpetrators). ([Link](#))

NWT:

Family Violence: The Aurora Research Institute's (ARI) *Scoping Review of Family Violence* recognizes that family violence in the NWT must be viewed through a Northern lens with the necessary Northern context, defining family violence as: behaviour, across the lifespan, from a person to a family member that is physically, sexually, psychologically, economically, or spiritually abusive, threatening, coercive, uses surveillance, or in any other way controls and dominates the family member (ARI, 2019) ([Link](#))

Yukon:

GBV: "Gender-based violence (GBV) involves the use and abuse of power and control over another person and is perpetrated against someone based on their gender identity, gender expression or perceived gender. Violence against women and girls is one form of gender-based violence. GBV also has a disproportionate impact on LGBTQ2 (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and two-spirit) and gender-nonconforming people" - Status of Women Canada ([Link](#))

NT:

GBV: There are many ways to experience gender-based violence and virtual spaces (digital violence) are not exempt. Gender-based violence is **physical or sexual. Emotional violence and financial violence** are also gender-based ([Link](#))